2nd impeachment charge vs Desierto is dead

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- Gloria going to Romania
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Usapang lalaki' cited in Erap bid to go to US

By Juliet L. Javellana, Dona Pazzibugan and Christian V. Esguerra

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada has given his word that he will return if allowed to go to the United States for knee surgery, according to an administration member of the House of Representatives.

USAPANG/A4

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, February 20, 2002 ★ 54 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 74 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'Real face of the enemy'

ROGER MARGALLO

FRANCIS Ricciardone, the new US ambassador to Manila, arrives Monday night amid military operations by Philippine and American troops against the Abu Sayyaf.

Video of Abus beheading soldiers draws strong objections

By Carlito Pablo
Martin P. Marfil and Agnes E. Donato

MALACAÑANG yesterday defended its decision to make public a two-hour video of Abu Sayyaf bandits beheading captured soldiers, saying it was meant to show the "real face of the enemy."

The footage, aired over at least two leading television networks late Monday, drew objections from various groups opposing the ongoing RP-US military training exercise aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf. The footage shows Abu Sayyaf bandits armed with machetes questioning a soldier, his hands tied and kneeling on the ground.

The soldier was asked to pray as a bandit later approached from behind, and with one swift swing, chopped off the man's head. Another wounded soldier sprawled on the ground was also beheaded.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said President Macapagal-Arroyo approved the showing of the video footage.

"She agreed to show it to the public. We want the public to see the real face of the enemy," Capco told Palace reporters.

But the gruesome video footage has assaulted the sensibilities of certain people, especially children.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said his 10-year-old grandson was horrified when he saw the barbaric act while waiting for his school bus.

"Upon seeing the hacking, Mikey suddenly covered his face with his two hands and ran out of the room," Biazon said in a statement.

He said he inquired from his wife, Monserrat, who served as a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classifica-

REAL/A16

GORY video footage showing Abu Sayyaf bandits beheading captured Filipino soldiers in Basilan was meant to quash opposition to joint RP-US operations in Basilan.

New US ambassador says American ties with RP maturing

THE NEW US ambassador to the Philippines yesterday said he expected bilateral relations maturing between Manila and Washington amid the ongoing joint military training exercise against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"The US and the Philippines are poised for a new level of maturity in our relationship, a new level of cooperation across the board," Francis Ricciardone, a former US envoy to the Middle East, told reporters, upon his arrival in Manila.

Ricciardone said he was proud of the US deployment of 660 soldiers for joint operations against the Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to the al-Qaida network of terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

"I'm really proud our soldiers are standing together in a training exercise to prove the capacity of both sides. But there's so much more to work on now," he said.

"Anything we can do to improve on cooperation in

NEW/A16

Gov't troops, Abus clash; 2 soldiers hurt

By Julie S. Alipala
and Rolly A. San Juan
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA, Basilan—The war against the Abu Sayyaf took one step forward and one step back yesterday, after the military rescued two coconut farmers kidnapped near here by one faction of the notorious bandits and two Navy men fell wounded in a firefight with another, bigger group.

The fighting erupted on Tinggolan island, about 7 km from Maluso town, after fishermen alerted the military to the Abu Sayyaf presence. US Special Forces troops are encamped with local troops in Maluso, but military officials immediately clarified that American troops were not involved in either encounter or rescue.

The bandits, estimated to number at least 40, opened fire as the soldiers approached, triggering a gunbattle that left two members of the Philippine Navy's Special Warfare Group wounded.

"Only two wounded, but they are safe," said Col. Alexander Aleo, chief of the 103rd Army Brigade. He refused to identify the victims, however.

The military immediately sent two MG-520 helicopter gunships and Navy gunboats to the area, spokesperson Capt. Noel Detoyato added. At the time of the briefing, "fighting (was) still ongoing," he said.

Col. Roland Detabali, operations chief of the Southern Command,

GOV'T/A16

Bush vows to project American might in Asia

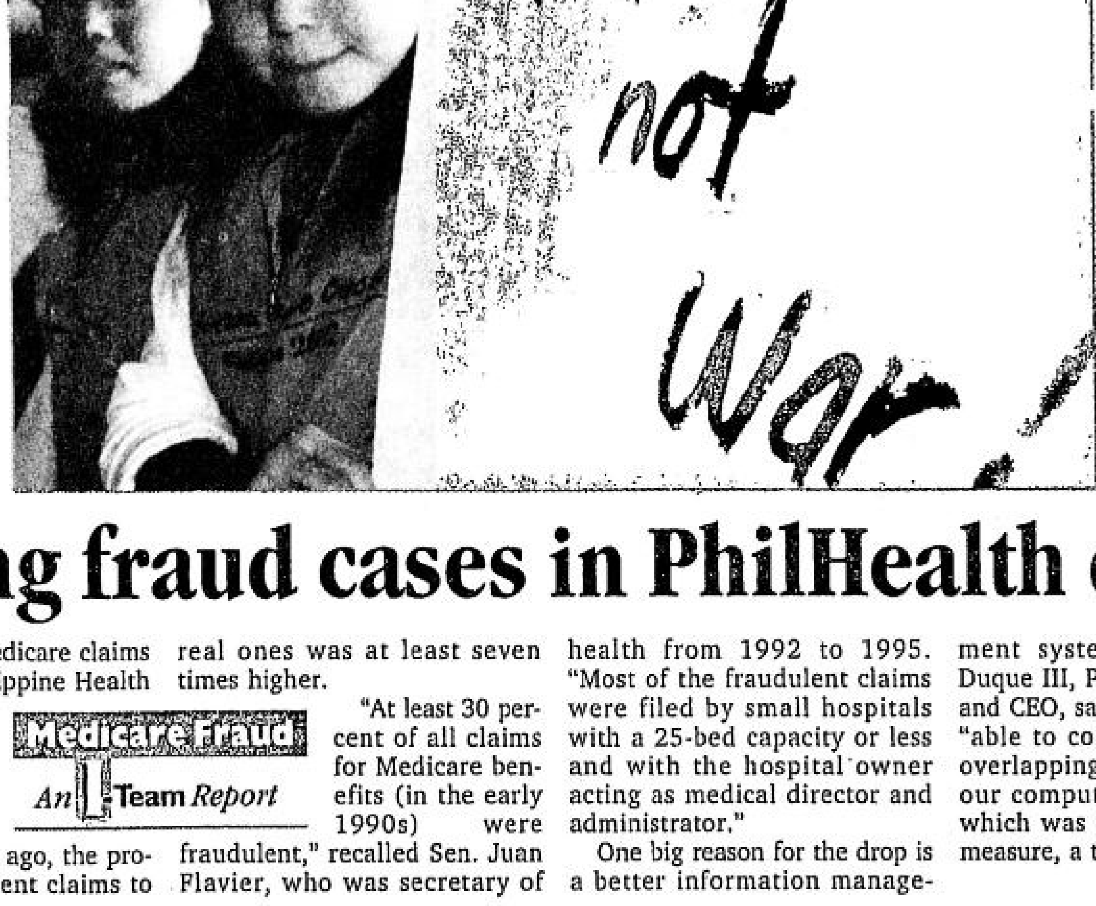
TOKYO—US President George W. Bush yesterday stressed the US security commitment to Asia, vowing to project American power in the region in order to combat terrorism and deter threats of aggression.

Speaking before the Japanese parliament, Bush declared that Japan would play an "indispensable" global role in what he predicted would be the "Pacific century."

"We stand more committed than ever to a forward presence in this region," he told the Diet, the oldest legislative body in Asia. "We will continue to show American power and purpose in support of the Philippines, Australia and Thailand."

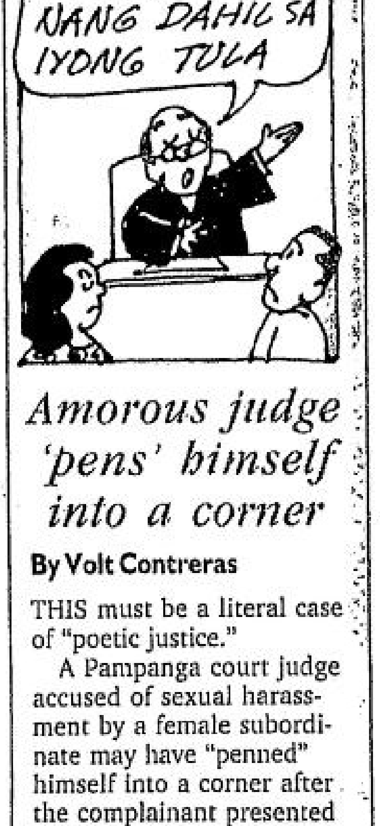
As many as 660 US Special Forces troops have been deployed in the Philippines to help train the local military in fighting Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been accused of maintaining ties with Osama

BUSH/A16


Peace not War!

TWO Japanese university students from Tokyo join a six-day peace tour on bicycles from Bulacan to Baguio City designed to show their protest against the US troop deployment in Mindanao.

DENNIS SABANGAN


AT IKAW, ISANG MAKATA... AY HAHATULAN NANG DAHIL SA IYONG TULA

Amorous judge 'pens' himself into a corner

By Volt Contreras

THIS must be a literal case of "poetic justice."

A Pampanga court judge accused of sexual harassment by a female subordinate may have "penned" himself into a corner after the complainant presented as evidence a suggestive

AMOROUS/A4

Computers bring fraud cases in PhilHealth down

By Jerry Esplanada

(Last of three parts)

Medicare Fraud
An I Team *Report*

IN 2000, the country's National Health Insurance Program lost some P272 million to fraudulent or questionable claims. And that's already the good news.

The amount represents some 4 percent of all Medicare claims filed with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp., the state-run company which administers the program, that year. But a decade ago, the proportion of fraudulent claims to real ones was at least seven times higher.

"At least 30 percent of all claims for Medicare benefits (in the early 1990s) were fraudulent," recalled Sen. Juan Flavier, who was secretary of health from 1992 to 1995. "Most of the fraudulent claims were filed by small hospitals with a 25-bed capacity or less and with the hospital owner acting as medical director and administrator."

One big reason for the drop is a better information management system. Dr. Francisco Duque III, PhilHealth president and CEO, said the company was "able to control multiple and overlapping claims because of our computerization program which was initially a stop-gap measure, a touch-and-go type of

COMPUTERS/A4

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WALA NA ANG IMPEACH-MENT!

Desierto impeachment is dead

By Christine Avendaño and Donna S. Cueto

THE IMPEACHMENT bid against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto is all but dead after the House justice committee yesterday "disposed" of the second impeachment complaint against him.

The committee sent the complaint back to the rules committee after last week's House vote junking the first complaint, said Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, the chair of the justice committee.

Libanan said it was now up to the rules committee to send the complaint to the committee on good government, which is scheduled to hear the tax credit scam controversy.

But Libanan said "as far as the impeachment is concerned, *wala na* (it's all over)."

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This effectively barred the House from entertaining a second impeachment complaint against Desierto as the Constitution bans initiating more than one impeachment complaint against an official within a period of one year.

The second complaint concerned the Ombudsman's allegedly deliberate bungling of the prosecution of the tax credit scam cases.

Meanwhile, Desierto yesterday told the Presidential Commission on Good Government to take its forfeiture petitions against six Marcos cronies alleged to be holding $19 million in Swiss deposits to the justice department.

In a letter to PCGG chair Haydee Yorac on Feb. 18, Desierto said he would return to her the case records of the forfeiture petitions against former Marcos energy minister Geronimo Velasco, Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, Carmencita Clavecilla, Alfredo de Borja, Fe Roa Gimenez and Ignacio Gimenez, which were submitted by the PCGG last December.

Citing Republic Act No. 6770, Desierto said that his office had no authority to conduct a preliminary investigation of the forfeiture petitions as this involved ill-gotten wealth acquired before Feb. 25, 1986.

He said Yorac should make her request for an inquiry to the justice department which could, if warranted, order the Solicitor General to file the corresponding petitions before the Sandiganbayan.

Desierto did not explain, however, why it took his office more than a month to determine that it had no authority to investigate the forfeiture petitions that it received last Jan. 2.

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He said that even the Supreme Court in its ruling in Cojuangco vs PCGG had upheld this restriction.

PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza said that the PCGG would study the Ombudsman's recommendation.

"We will also consult with the Solicitor General if there's a need to refer this to the OSG," he said yesterday.

Yorac, who is rumored to be the favored official to replace Desierto when he retires in August, had written the Ombudsman on Feb. 14 asking him to explain what action he had taken on the four forfeiture petitions.

She said the Ombudsman's delay in acting on the petitions could prejudice efforts to recover the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos cronies which were deposited in Switzerland.

The PCGG said the deposits of the Marcos cronies were frozen in 1986 when Swiss authorities issued a unilateral freeze order on all Marcos-related Swiss accounts.

According to the forfeiture petitions, Velasco held at least $14 million in Swiss deposits as of 1986; the Gimenez couple had $3.2 million and 3.093 million in deutschmark.

Clavecilla had $250,000 in Swiss deposits at the American Express Bank, while her relative Alfredo de Borja kept at least $961,521.45, also in the same bank.

Bejo Romualdez, a brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, also had at least $979,000 in Swiss deposits as of 1986, the PCGG said.

Sino drug ring boss nabbed

POLICE yesterday arrested a suspected key leader of a Fujian drug trafficking syndicate and his aide during a dawn drug bust in Pasay City last Sunday, police said yesterday.

Cai Ah Huai, an alleged chemist of the Fujian drug syndicate and his aide, Ong Cheng Yun, were arrested in a sting operation in their apartment at 2747 Zamora St., said Narcotics Group director Efren Fernandez.

Seized from them were 1 kg of shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride, with a street value of P2 million; a 9mm pistol with live bullets; a weighing scale and a mobile phone with global positioning satellite (GPS) capability.

Fernandez said an undercover officer bought 200 grams of shabu from Ong, but the alleged drug dealer sensed he was being set up and tried to flee.

He led officers to an apartment where they found Cai allegedly repacking about 800 grams of the drug. ***TJ Burgonio and AP***

For Gloria, it's on to Romania

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted an invitation from visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu to visit Bucharest next year.

Iliescu, who arrived late Monday for a three-day state visit to strengthen trade and political ties, is the first Romanian President to visit the country since the Eastern European country's "people power" revolution in December 1989.

The Philippines and Romania share a recent history of dramatic revolutions that caught the world's attention in the 1980s. The Romanians toppled and then shot the late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who ruled from 1965 to 1989, and had visited Manila in 1972.

Iliescu was given full military honors, including a 21-gun salute, when he arrived in Malacañang at 9 a.m. yesterday.

He and Ms Macapagal had a 10-minute, one-on-one meeting. Their Cabinet officials joined them later in an expanded bilateral meeting.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, energy and trade.

They recalled the similarities between their countries, which share a Latin heritage, made the transition from dictatorship to a democracy and are fighting to reduce poverty.

In his brief remarks, Iliescu said Ms Macapagal had "graciously" accepted his invitation to visit Romania next year.

He said Romania and the Philippines could also help each other in information and communications technology and even in the fight against terrorism.

He said he and Ms Macapagal had also pledged to support each other's candidacies for non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council.

Ms Macapagal said they discussed energy security, information technology and the possible participation by Romania in the rehabilitation of the Philippine railway system.

They also exchanged ideas about good governance and the protection of their regained democracies, she said.

Ms Macapagal said she was hopeful the two sides could sign another accord for cooperation between their trade agencies after Iliescu and his delegation of business people meet with Filipino entrepreneurs.

She noted that the Romanian president's visit came at a time when the two countries were celebrating 30 years of diplomatic relations.

The Philippines established relations with Romania on Feb. 29, 1972, its first with a socialist country.

They said the two countries could exploit their common Latin roots to broaden cooperation.

Bilateral trade is minimal, amounting to only $627,806 last year. Romanian exports to the Philippines include pharmaceuticals, tractors and railway coaches. It imports electronic goods, fruit concentrates and other products from the Philippines.

Iliescu returned to Malacañang in the evening for a state dinner in his honor.

Ms Macapagal conferred on him the Order of Sikatuna with the Rank of Raja, the country's highest diplomatic honor.

Iliescu, meanwhile, conferred on Ms Macapagal the Star of Romania.

The Romanian president and his party will be meeting today with Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. ***Dona Pazzibugan with AFP and AP***

Guingona off today for 'retreat'

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. leaves today for Phuket in Thailand for a diplomatic retreat with other foreign ministers of member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Guingona said the Asean foreign ministers' retreat would include issues such as the follow-up of the 7th Summit and the progress of the Initiative for Asean integration.

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POLICE yesterday arrested a suspected key leader of a Fujian drug trafficking syndicate and his aide during a dawn drug bust in Pasay City last Sunday, police said yesterday.

Cai Ah Huai, an alleged chemist of the Fujian drug syndicate, and his aide, Ong Cheng Yun, were arrested in a sting operation in their apartment at 2747 Zamora St., said Narcotics Group director Efren Fernandez.

Seized from them were 1 kg of shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride, with a street value of P2 million; a 9mm pistol with live bullets; a weighing scale and a mobile phone with global positioning satellite (GPS) capability.

Fernandez said an undercover officer bought 200 grams of shabu from Ong, but the alleged drug dealer sensed he was being set up and tried to flee.

He led officers to an apartment where they found Cai allegedly repacking about 800 grams of the drug. ***TJ Burgonio and AP***

For Gloria, it's on to Romania

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted an invitation from visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu to visit Bucharest next year.

Iliescu, who arrived late Monday for a three-day state visit to strengthen trade and political ties, is the first Romanian President to visit the country since the Eastern European country's "people power" revolution in December 1989.

The Philippines and Romania share a recent history of dramatic revolutions that caught the world's attention in the 1980s. The Romanians toppled and then shot the late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who ruled from 1965 to 1989, and had visited Manila in 1972.

Iliescu was given full military honors, including a 21-gun salute, when he arrived in Malacañang at 9 a.m. yesterday.

He and Ms Macapagal had a 10-minute, one-on-one meeting. Their Cabinet officials joined them later in an expanded bilateral meeting.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, energy and trade.

They recalled the similarities between their countries, which share a Latin heritage, made the transition from dictatorship to a democracy and are fighting to reduce poverty.

In his brief remarks, Iliescu said Ms Macapagal had "graciously" accepted his invitation to visit Romania next year.

He said Romania and the Philippines could also help each other in information and communications technology and even in the fight against terrorism.

He said he and Ms Macapagal had also pledged to support each other's candidacies for non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council.

Ms Macapagal said they discussed energy security, information technology and the possible participation by Romania in the rehabilitation of the Philippine railway system.

They also exchanged ideas about good governance and the protection of their regained democracies, she said.

Ms Macapagal said she was hopeful the two sides could sign another accord for cooperation between their trade agencies after Iliescu and his delegation of business people meet with Filipino entrepreneurs.

She noted that the Romanian president's visit came at a time when the two countries were celebrating 30 years of diplomatic relations.

The Philippines established relations with Romania on Feb. 29, 1972, its first with a socialist country.

They said the two countries could exploit their common Latin roots to broaden cooperation.

Bilateral trade is minimal, amounting to only $627,806 last year. Romanian exports to the Philippines include pharmaceuticals, tractors and railway coaches. It imports electronic goods, fruit concentrates and other products from the Philippines.

Iliescu returned to Malacañang in the evening for a state dinner in his honor.

Ms Macapagal conferred on him the Order of Sikatuna with the Rank of Raja, the country's highest diplomatic honor.

Iliescu, meanwhile, conferred on Ms Macapagal the Star of Romania.

The Romanian president and his party will be meeting today with Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. ***Dona Pazzibugan with AFP and AP***

Guingona off today for 'retreat'

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. leaves today for Phuket in Thailand for a diplomatic retreat with other foreign ministers of member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Guingona said the Asean foreign ministers' retreat would include issues such as the follow-up of the 7th Summit and the progress of the Initiative for Asean integration.

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Plunder urged in case of missing agri funds

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SENATE committee on food and agriculture will recommend the filing of plunder charges against officials of several government agencies in connection with a missing P2.4 billion in agricultural funds.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar, the committee chair, told the customs bureau and the budget and agriculture to look for the missing Agriculture Competitiveness and Enhancement Fund (Acef) during a public hearing on Monday.

"We have given them one month to account for the funds and if they are not able to do this, someone will be liable for plunder," he said.

The Acef consists of the proceeds from the payment of duties for agricultural imports that were supposed to be used to provide safety nets for domestic farmers to cushion them from the impact of the liberalized trade in agriculture.

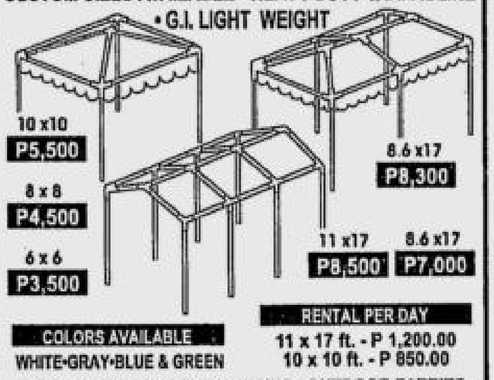
The Bureau of Customs was supposed to remit the money to the government by depositing it in an Acef account.

Of the P3.9 billion that was supposed to be collected from the Acef since 1998, only P1.5 billion has been accounted for.

The committee has been looking into the implementation of Republic Act 8178, also known as the Agricultural Tariffication Act, enacted in March 1996, particularly the use of the Acef to help farmers.

The law provides tariff protection to all agricultural products except for rice, which is covered by non-tariff import restrictions, to protect domestic producers from the effects of liberalization.

Congress created the Acef to ensure that the proceeds from the importation of the volumes allowed would be set aside for irrigation, farm-to-market roads, post-harvest equipment and facilities, credit research and development, retraining, extension services and other forms of assistance and support to the agricultural sector.



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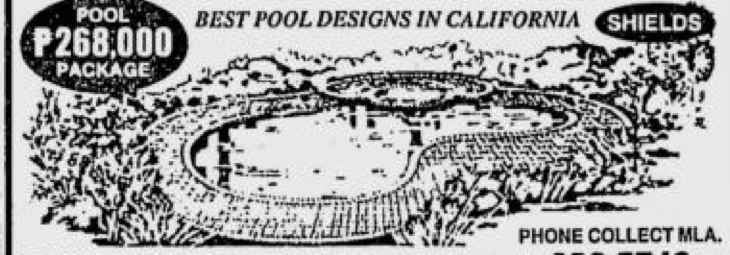

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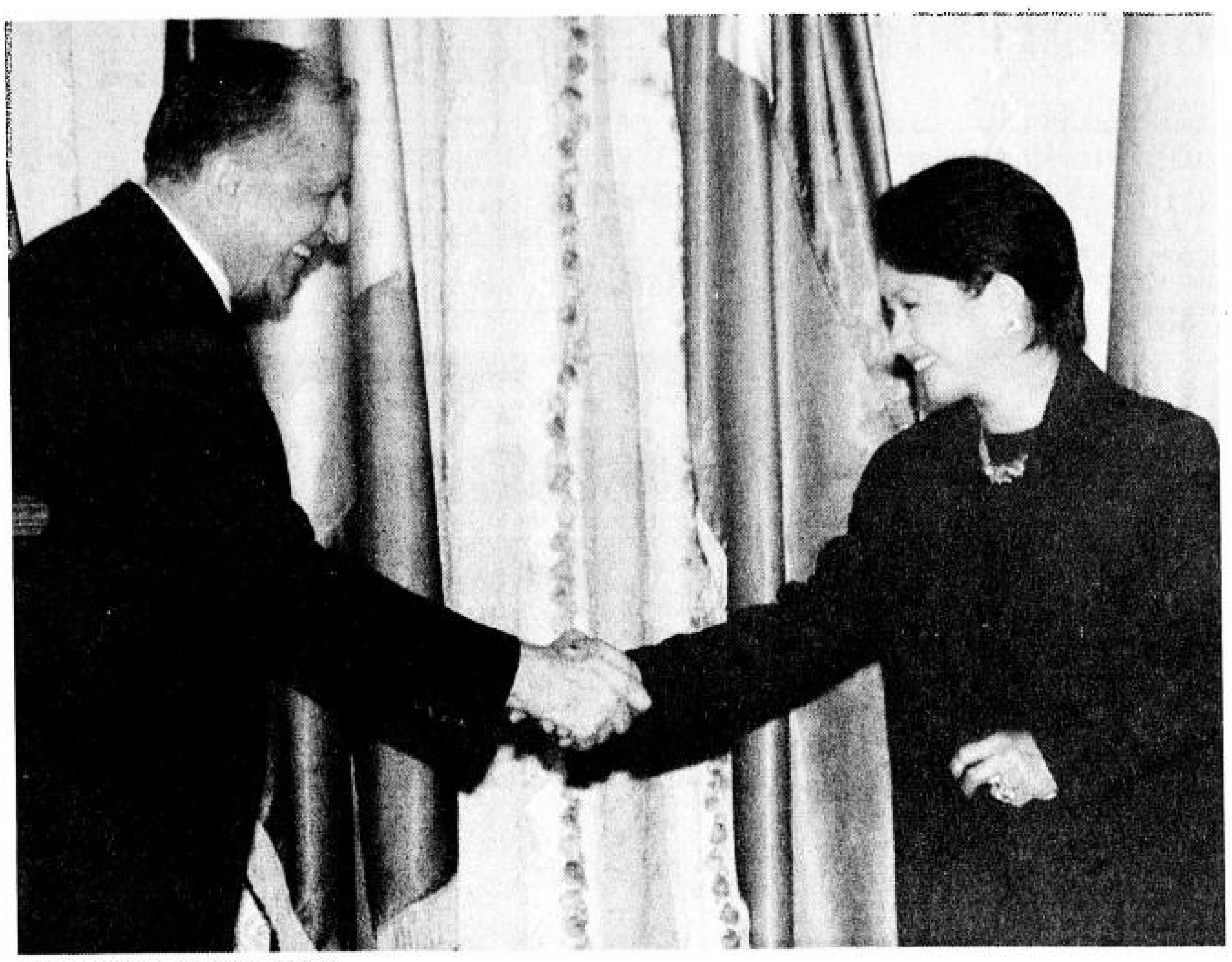

ROMANIAN VISITOR

President Macapagal welcomes Romanian President Ion Iliescu to Malacañang. Iliescu is on a two-day visit to Manila to enhance the diplomatic relations between the two countries. *(Story on Page A2)* EDWIN BACASMAS

'Usapang lalaki' cited in Erap bid to go to US

From page A1

Lakas Rep. Prospero Nograles yesterday disclosed that supporters of a resolution urging the government to allow Estrada to go to the United States had a "man-to-man talk" *(usapang lalaki)* with Estrada that he would "come back to face the music."

"It's not meant to be a backdoor exit for Estrada," said Nograles, co-author of the resolution, which as of yesterday was signed by 136 House members, including all three deputy speakers, the former House prosecutors during the failed Senate impeachment trial of Estrada and members of the various political parties.

The only House official who did not sign the resolution is Speaker Jose de Venecia, but he is expected to support the resolution once it is adopted anytime next week. A counterpart resolution in the Senate has gathered 19 signatures.

Nograles, Lakas chair for Davao, echoed opposition Sen. Agapito "Butz" Aquino's statement that allowing Estrada to leave for surgery would bring about political reconciliation.

"It's good for the country because it's part of the healing process which we need at this time," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo refused to comment on Aquino's claim that having Estrada out of the country would bring political peace to her administration.

"She would not comment because it would be seen as a form of pressure (on the Sandiganbayan)," her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña said Ms Macapagal might lose her close allies if she supported the resolutions.

Osmeña was reacting to the statement of Aquino that the President would have relative peace if Estrada was allowed to undergo surgery abroad.

"I don't believe that will happen. Instead, President Macapagal will lose her (popularity) rating. I also believe that the President will lose her close allies," he said in Cebuano over radio station dyLA.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday joined Education Secretary Raul Roco in openly opposing Estrada's bid.

Guingona said Estrada did not have to leave the country to have his surgery.

"I think Estrada's knee and eye problems should be attended to. But we have the testimony of the (medical) experts. They have written those concerned that his treatment is possible here," said Guingona, also the foreign secretary.

"I think (Estrada's) doctor can understand because we are not talking here only of the operation, but the justice system. If this is allowed, others will ask for the same thing," he said.

Ombudsman

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said the resolution was "not necessarily" directed to the Sandiganbayan, which is trying Estrada for plunder, but to Malacañang and the Office of the Ombudsman.

"Malacañang knows what it is going to do. I do not have to tell you what steps Malacañang may take but in the long run what we are doing is really good for the country," said Dilangalen, principal author of the resolution.

He said the resolution was appealing to "concerned authorities, through proper channels" to let Estrada undergo medical treatment abroad for humanitarian reasons."

"While the Sandiganbayan will fall under the category of a concerned authority as the final arbiter of the case, it does not follow that this is being directed to (it). But some people immediately jumped to a conclusion that we are directing this to the Sandiganbayan, which is not really true," Dilangalen said.

He said that the concerned authorities were Malacañang and the Office of the Ombudsman, and that the proper channels could be the Solicitor General, the Executive Secretary, or the National Security Adviser.

"This could be directed to the Ombudsman. What's wrong with that? The Ombudsman is also a human being and he is not deciding, just prosecuting," Dilangalen said.

Asked if he expected Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to file a petition asking the Sandiganbayan to reconsider its objection to Estrada's medical treatment abroad, Dilangalen said: "No. I will leave that to the Executive."

Dilangalen said he respected Ms Macapagal's position to leave the matter to the Sandiganbayan "but that will not stop us from approving this in the plenary."

He said he would leave it up to the Speaker whether to officially transmit the resolution, once it is adopted, to the President.

No pressure

Dilangalen said it was very difficult to make people understand that they were not trying to exert pressure on the Sandiganbayan.

"If nobody listens to us we cannot do anything. We do this in the hope that somebody will listen to us without pressuring them," he said.

He denied that the President had given her blessings to the resolution.

"In fairness to the President, she has nothing to do with this but if she listens, if she gives Erap the chance and does not oppose this, it'll be good," Dilangalen said.

He could not say how long Estrada could stay abroad if allowed to go.

"President Erap should stay abroad for as long as necessary. If it takes only a month or so in the US, he must return on the third month," Dilangalen said.

The Edsa People Power Commission has urged the members of the House and the Senate to resign if Estrada escapes.

Edsa commissioner Pastor "Boy" Saycon said the legislators should also include in their resolution the "resignation" clause.

Saycon said the Edsa Commission was preparing its own position paper to counter the Senate and House resolutions.

But unlike the twin resolutions, the commission's paper will in no way try to put pressure on the Sandiganbayan, according to Saycon.

Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs, warned that the resolutions could only divide the public.

Copa, PlunderWatch, Bayan Muna and other cause-oriented groups will stage a picket at the Senate tomorrow afternoon to ask administration senators to withdraw their signatures from the resolution.

In the House, Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano yesterday delivered a privilege speech assailing former Senate President Jovito Salonga for saying that the resolution was exerting undue pressure on the judiciary.

Albano branded Salonga a "reckless bigot . . . (who has) neither Christian faith (in) nor appreciation for the rule of law."

"To declare that we are pressuring the Sandiganbayan insults not only Congress but also the Sandiganbayan. Nothing good can be said of those who see only evil in what others do," Albano said. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Amorous judge . . .

From page A1

"love poem" he had given her.

The two-page poem, written in Filipino by now dismissed Judge Hermin Arceo, was submitted to the 4th division of the Sandiganbayan, which is trying the criminal case. The poem now forms part of court records.

Incidentally, the court released a resolution on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, denying Arceo's objection to the evidence and ordering him to prepare for a hearing on March 19 and 20.

Arceo's poem was reproduced in the court resolution written by Associate Justice Rodolfo Palattao.

Parts of the judge's poem:

Dumating ka sa buhay ko
isang araw ng Agosto,
Ang baon mo ay ang iyong ganda
at talinong abogado.
Ang tamis ng iyong ngiti
ay bumihag sa puso ko,
Malakas na pampalubag
sa mainit kong ulo.
Kapalaran ay malupit
di kita makatalik,
Sa ngayon o bukas
pagka't di mo ibig.

(A rough translation: You came into my life one August day with your beauty and lawyer's intelligence. Your sweet smile captured my heart and eased my anger. But fate is unkind and I cannot take delight in your company today or tomorrow because you won't have me.)

Ang akala ko'y gayon lamang
magiging pagtingin ko sa iyo,
Ako itong amo at ikaw ang empleyado
Bakit habang tumatagal isip ko'y nagugulo
'Pag di ka nakikita'y laging nagagalit ako.

(I thought my feelings for you would only be temporary. I am the boss, you the employee. But as time goes by I get more confused, I am prone to anger when I don't see you.)

Aangkinin kita kahit sa panaginip
Gano'n kita kamahal xxx aking pag-ibig.

(You shall be mine if only in my dreams. That's how much I love you, xxx, my love).

Arceo, who was the executive judge of the San Fernando Regional Trial Court, allegedly made sexual advances toward the complainant on Dec. 6, 1995. The complainant was newly married at the time.

The complainant charged the judge with sexual harassment and acts of lasciviousness in September 1997.

Sandiganbayan records showed the Supreme Court had found Arceo guilty of "gross misconduct and immorality" based on the administrative case filed by the complainant. The judge was dismissed from the service.

Quoting the high court's findings in the administrative case, the Sandiganbayan said the "poem has damned him (Arceo), being documented proof of his sexual intentions toward the complainant."

The resolution said the poem, along with the testimony of the complainant and her witnesses, "constitute(d) sufficient basis to overcome the presumption of innocence enjoyed by the accused."

It said the defense bore the burden of evidence and unless disputed, it might sufficiently establish Arceo's guilt in the criminal case.

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Computers bring fraud cases in PhilHealth down

From page A1

thing. In the beginning there was really no comprehensive information systems plan to speak of."

"The good news is we're now into it," he added. "To complete the system, PhilHealth will need P1 billion. Fortunately, we have the resources."

Duque said a complete system would allow PhilHealth a "better monitoring scheme involving claims and in the process (to) avert attempts by unscrupulous health care providers to continuously bleed the funds of the National Health Insurance Program."

The firm has also signed a memorandum of agreement with the National Bureau of Investigation to bring fraud incidence even lower. Duque said the firm will turn over to the NBI criminal cases involving such anomalies as falsification of PhilHealth checks.

Checks belonging to the firm, Duque said, giving an example, "have been copied and samples of these were recently discovered in San Fernando, Pampanga, using the account number maintained by our Dagupan City office. Another set of spurious checks was deposited in banks in Bataan. We have about 46 documented cases of similar nature, 18 of which came from the Ilocos region."

Membership coverage

Aside from tightening its fraud monitoring and control system, the corporation's main focus is "getting the majority of the 76 million Filipinos into the fold of PhilHealth."

"Our mandate is to provide universal social health insurance to all Filipinos and 76 million is a moving target. Because you have a population growth of 2.7 percent each year. Consistent with our mandate, we hope to enrol more than 10 million Filipinos in five to six years. It's a moving target and it's really a challenge and we're doing everything to live up to the challenge," Duque said.

FLAVIER

DUQUE

Membership coverage was estimated to be close to 34 million last September, "the result of 8.16 million paying members." Nearly 21 million or two out of three National Health Insurance Program beneficiaries are from Luzon; the rest are equally distributed in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Another challenge, Duque noted, is increasing by 1.2 million by year's end those in the individual category—"voluntary members like the *balut* and cigarette vendors." Their monthly premium contributions are pegged at P100 a month and may be paid quarterly, semiannually or annually.

Overseas Filipino workers, on the other hand, pay P225 in quarterly contributions. For public and private sector employees, monthly contributions range between P75 and P187.50.

During the administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada, PhilHealth was able to enrol only 10,000 families (about 50,000 persons) under its "Lingap para sa Mahirap."

In her State of the Nation Address in June, President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to do better. That is, enrolling within one year up to 500,000 urban poor households in the firm's Plan 500 campaign.

"The countdown started on June 1. So far, we've enlisted 156,039 families (about 780,195 beneficiaries) scattered in 305 local government units nationwide, representing 31.2 percent of the targeted households by June this year. But we're on track," Duque said.

But Dr. Edgardo Clemente, vice president of the Philippine Hospital Association, received the news with skepticism. "They look good on paper," he said. But are these real members?"

Last year, Clemente called PhilHealth a failure in his BusinessWorld column "because it has not done much in relation to its very reason for being. To brag about the SSS and GSIS component working well does not mean anything since we already had that part working during the Medicare days."

"To achieve universal coverage in 1995 to 2010, it should have been recruiting members in the vicinity of 2 to 2.5 million a year. Since six years have already passed without even having a million people placed in the insurance pool, the next nine years would require working at more than 3 million per year," according to Clemente.

He also assailed PhilHealth for allegedly encumbering the hospital system with "mountains of paperwork, requiring more people, time, expenses and other resources."

"Apparently, it is unaware that the core business of hospitals is to treat patients medically. Any and all documentation requirements actually take away people, efforts and assets away from the hospitals' major responsibility. There are hidden costs to everything and the patented government bureaucratic style can strangulate a hospital to the point of inefficiency," Clemente wrote.

Linda Laureta, head of PhilHealth's corporate communications office, replied, explaining "the changes in forms, the requirements and other developments in the procedure of processing Medicare claim refunds are all being made to improve the existing systems."

Duque assured "claims are no longer a problem. The processing of claims has improved tremendously. On Dec. 31, less than 200,000 were still in process and only 17,214 of the claims were considered backlog."

This year, the firm's accreditation and quality assurance initiatives include the development of what it calls "Geographic Information System," the database of health care providers, and the full implementation of the ICD-10, or the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

ICD-10 is a system in which diseases, injuries and hospital procedures are grouped according to established criteria. Health care providers "will enjoy speedy reimbursements from PhilHealth as long as they have appropriately recorded and coded the conditions of their patients," the firm said.

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SUPREME COURT SURPRISE

Ping's lawyer drops double jeopardy tack

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE LAWYER of Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday stunned the justices of the Supreme Court when he did not invoke the doctrine on double jeopardy to stop the government from refiling the Kuratong Baleleng cases.

During the five-hour oral arguments yesterday, Lacson counsel Philip Sigfrid Fortun told the justices that he was not invoking his client's right against double jeopardy.

Fortun instead invoked Section 8, Rule 117 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedures, which deals with the two-year prescriptive period for the revival of dismissed cases.

"The state with all its powers did nothing (to revive the cases within the two-year period). Why out of a sudden they (government prosecutors) cry for justice?" said Fortun.

Thus, he claimed, the state was forever barred from reviving or filing new cases because Section 8, Rule 117 allegedly barred the further prosecution of Lacson and the other accused.

Lacson and his top aides were accused to summarily executing 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang. The cases were dismissed when witnesses retracted their statements, but the government decided to revive the case.

Fortun issued the arguments in an effort to block a government petition seeking to junk the Aug. 24 Court of Appeals ruling, which banned the revival and reinvestigation of the cases. The decision upheld a previous ruling by the Quezon City regional trial court.

Several associate justices believe that Section 8, Rule 117 could not apply to Lacson's case. Even the doctrine of double jeopardy could not be invoked since Lacson was not validly arraigned, as admitted by Fortun himself.

Most of the associate justices interjected Fortun, asking him to defend his position that the rule indeed applied to the case.

Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza reminded Fortun that the said provision was non-existent when Quezon City Judge Wenceslao Agnir provisionally dismissed the cases in 1999. The rule took effect on December 2000.

Mendoza said the real issue was not the two-year prescription period but the question on whether Lacson could be put in jeopardy of punishment for the same offense.

However, Fortun strongly disagreed, saying "Double jeopardy is not an issue but the ban for the prosecution (to revive the cases) and the penalty upon the state."

Only 13 justices are hearing the case. Justice Bernardo Pardo retired on Feb. 11 while Associate Justice Antonio Carpio inhibited himself. Lacson's lawyers had sought the inhibition of Carpio, saying he was biased against Lacson as shown in his columns in the INQUIRER.

Carpio was INQUIRER columnist before he was appointed to the high court last year.

No evidence, no rap vs Indon terror suspect

DEPARTMENT of Justice prosecutors have dismissed charges of illegal possession of explosives against an Indonesian man linked to the al-Qaida terror network because police failed to present the evidence.

However, they said they will pursue a relatively minor charge of illegally obtaining a Philippine passport against Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, whose arrest in Manila last month led authorities to a ton of explosives buried behind a house he had built in General Santos City. Police also seized 17 M-16 assault rifles.

Another terrorism suspect, Malaysian Azmi Salleh, has been deported to Kuala Lumpur after he was cleared of suspicion of involvement in any terrorist groups.

Azmi was stopped at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after he was found carrying 104 passports and $57,000.

"The law enforcement authorities merely presented photographs of the alleged explosive components and failed to present the physical evidence," a three-page resolution dismissing the explosives charges against the Indonesian said.

The prosecutors said, however, they found that Al-Ghozi violated Philippine law by getting a passport by falsely claiming to be a Filipino.

No Pentagon link to Lina, Mendoza

THE ALLEGED leader of the notorious Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang never linked Interior Secretary Joey Lina and national police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza to kidnapping, a police official said yesterday.

The disclosure came as Lina announced he was giving the head of National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) control of all anti-kidnap task forces in a bid to defuse the "turf war" between these agencies.

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Naktaf chief, said Faisal Maro-hombsar never issued a statement linking Lina and Mendoza to the Pentagon gang during his interrogation.

"There was no statement linking the two to kidnapping. There was no statement on kidnapping, only something beneficial to the government," he said, but declined to elaborate. He added: "There was nothing derogatory in his statement. He was just trying to defend himself."

Some papers published Marohombsar's alleged statement to his interrogators that his kidnapping activities had the blessings of Lina and Mendoza, quoting unnamed Naktaf sources.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 20, 2002
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading:	**Jonah 3:1-10**
Gospel:	**Lk 11:29-32**

As the crowd increased, Jesus began to speak in this way, "People of the present time are evil people. They ask for a sign, but no sign will be given to them except the sign of Jonah. As Jonah became a sign for the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be a sign for this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and here there is greater than Solomon. The people of Nineveh will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for Jonah's preaching made them turn from their sins, and here there is greater than Jonah.

Commentary

Do you ever think, "I wish I could see Jesus just as he was when he walked this earth. If I could see his face, hear his voice, would it not wonderfully strengthen my faith, love and commitment!"?

Today's gospel seems to say, "No. Sorry. It wouldn't."

It seems as if the real Jesus wasn't exciting enough. Not like in the movies, Jesus of Nazareth, music playing, emotions stirring, the eyes of Jesus piercing all hearts. Jesus himself had to admit that most of those who showed interest were only there in hopes of miracles and signs.

The challenge is to realize that the really wonderful is close at hand, always, in the ordinary realities: rice, bread, water, sunlight; that I am here at all, can see, hear, walk on the earth, value the person beside me.

"Are you really there, God, in that small, dark, sweat-stained guy?"

"Precisely."

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE/CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Principles in the review of rape cases—In reviewing rape cases, the Court is guided by the following principles: (a) an accusation of rape can be made with facility and while the accusation is difficult to prove, it is even more difficult for the person accused, though innocent, to disprove the charge; (b) considering that, in the nature of things, only two persons are usually involved in the crime of rape, the testimony of the complainant must be scrutinized with great caution; and (c) the evidence for the prosecution must stand or fall on its own merit, and cannot be allowed to draw strength from the weakness of the evidence for the defense. It is true that in rape cases, an accused may be convicted solely on the basis of the testimony of the complainant. Hence, her testimony must be viewed with utmost caution, more particularly when there are factors that cast doubt on her credibility. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, People v. Morales, G.R. No. 134292, August 16, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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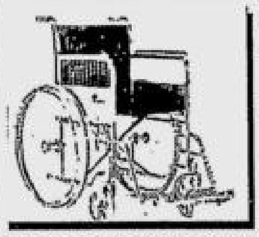

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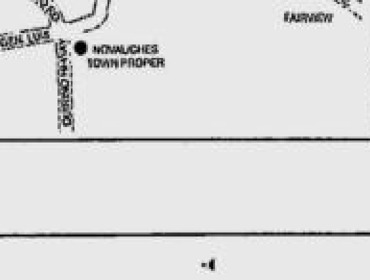

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Kiss Erap goodbye

EDITORIAL

IF JOSEPH Estrada is ever allowed to seek medical treatment for his sore knees in the United States, there is no telling when he will be coming back. Take it from one of his most rabid followers, Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, who once compared the disgraced former president to Jesus Christ. "If you are going to allow Erap to have his treatment abroad, you must be prepared to grant him a prolonged treatment," Aquino said on Monday. "If he gets medical treatment, it must be complete so that when he comes back the problem (won't recur)."

Aquino, however, could not say exactly when Estrada would be back if given the opportunity to have his operation in the United States. But that may be the wrong question to ask. The right question is whether Estrada will ever come back at all once he is allowed to set foot on foreign soil. And Aquino's statement leaves that question open. In saying that Estrada should get a complete treatment, Aquino is actually suggesting that Estrada could stay abroad for the rest of his life. All it would take is a certification from his doctor that he needs further observation and treatment.

If that gambit works, Estrada's loyal party mates, like Sen. Blas F. Ople and Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, will have succeeded in doing what his high-powered lawyers have been trying to do, which is to delay the trial until a new and more sympathetic administration takes over or maybe a revolution brings Estrada back to power. And they will have done the lawyers even one better, for abroad Estrada will be free as a bird, not cooped up in the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Then what will happen to the cases filed against him? They stay in limbo. What happens to the money he has stolen, like the P189-million kickback he got from Belle Resources for the purchase of shares by the Social Security System? He gets to keep it or spend it. And what happens to the people's quest for justice? They can forget it.

The wonder of it all is that even administration lawmakers, including nine senators, fell for that ruse and signed the resolution urging the Sandiganbayan to give Estrada the special privilege of seeking treatment abroad. Or did they? Had they been tricked into supporting the resolution by Ople and Dilangalen who made it appear like a humanitarian act?

Quite unlikely. Take it again from Aquino: the administration can gain some political dividends from this. Like having "relative peace" in the land and removing an "irritation." "*Parang nabunutan siya ng tinik,*" Aquino said of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Was this the reason then that the resolution got bipartisan support? Ms Macapagal denies it vehemently. But there they are, the twin resolutions signed by 19 senators and 130 congressmen belonging to both the opposition and the ruling coalition.

What a price to pay for political expediency, for expanding the President's comfort zone and banishing a progressively declining threat to national stability. This is a singular opportunity for the nation to demonstrate that everyone is equal before the law and for the government to declare that the plunder of the treasury will not go unpunished, and our lawmakers would throw it away.

It's a good thing that such a decision is not for our lawmakers to make. That responsibility rests solely with the Sandiganbayan, and it has already rejected a similar petition submitted by Estrada's lawyers. All that the Special Division has to do is look up that earlier decision. Nothing has changed, and so that decision should stay, whatever our senators and congressmen may say. Otherwise, everyone can just kiss Estrada and his lot goodbye.

Daring undertaking

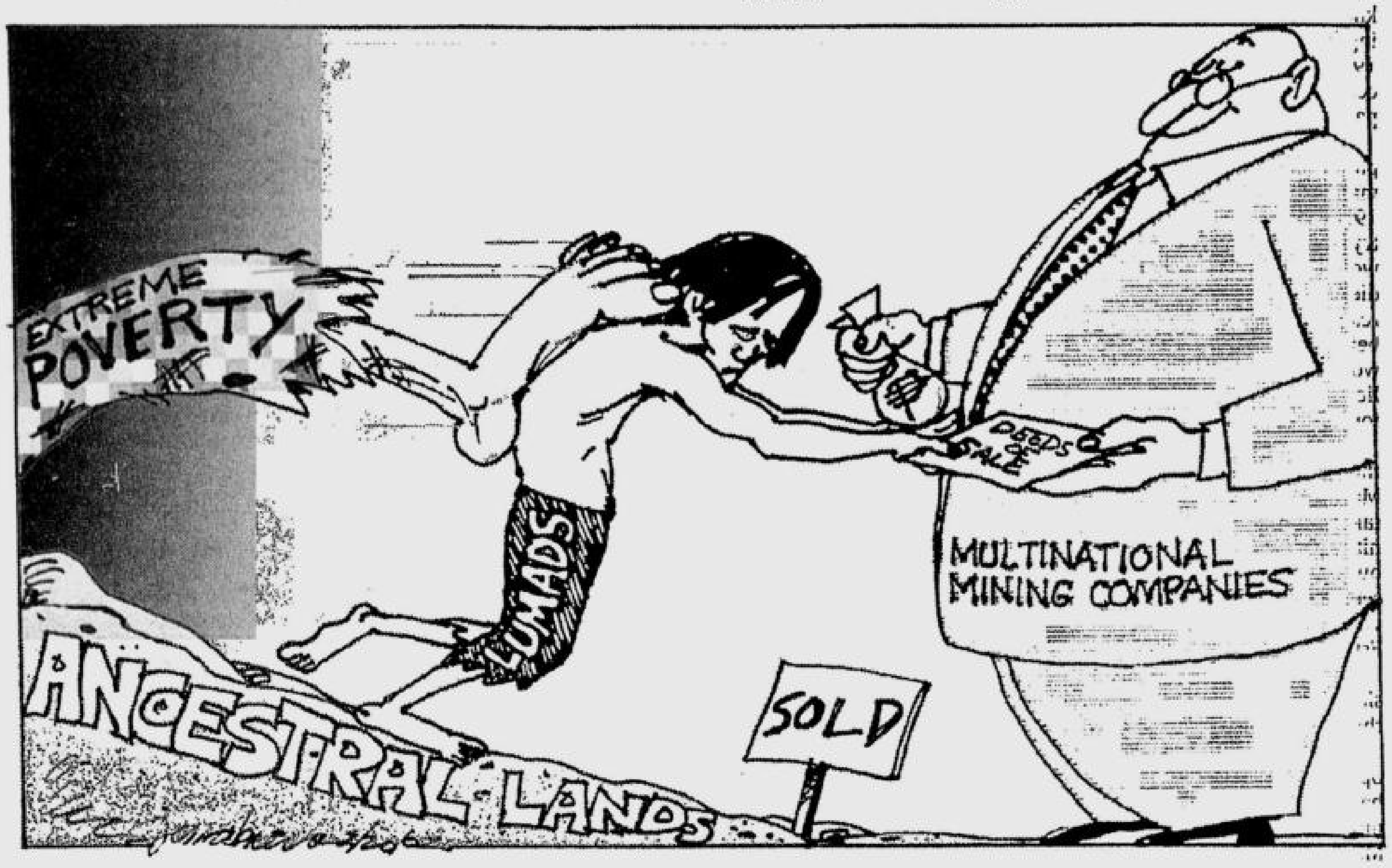
FOREIGN COMMENT

IRAQ after Afghanistan? The coalition that defeated Baghdad in 1991 had an easy time of it, as their only goal was to push back an invasion. Now there is a second war, that would have no other aims than the weakening of Saddam Hussein's regime, the destruction of his arsenal, the thrashing of his schemes and the occupation of Baghdad.

But Baghdad has a population exceeding four and a half million people. Confronting guerrillas and terrorists in a metropolis that can certainly not be leveled is a daring undertaking. Baghdad isn't Kabul, just as Saddam is not Mullah Mohammed Omar. In any case, an incalculable human cost would be suffered.

Besides the West and Third World governments, Moscow and Beijing have strong motives to join the fight. It is essential for Saddam to know that he is under fire from several different directions, a result of a very risky isolation.

Corriere della Sera (Milan, Italy)



Camacho should stop illegal acts in BoC

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE COMMISSION on Appointments has not yet confirmed the appointment of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. It is scheduled to resume deliberations and voting on his appointment next week. Before they vote, will the commission members please ask Camacho why he is not doing anything about the "web of corruption" in the Bureau of Customs which was exposed last week in a privilege speech by Sen. Robert Barbers? And why he is tolerating illegal acts and injustices to be committed in the bureau which is under him?

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva is scheduled to retire next month. In fact, his replacement has already been announced by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But Villanueva, in a mean last hurrah, ordered the non-payment of the salary of Deputy Commissioner Emma Rosqueta who has filed a complaint against him with the Office of the Ombudsman. In an order last Feb. 7, the Ombudsman said the complaint against Villanueva and lawyer Gil Valera—who is usurping Rosqueta's position as deputy commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring—was "sufficient in form and substance" and required Villanueva "to show cause why he should not be placed under preventive suspension." On the same day, Feb. 7, Villanueva issued the order for the non-payment of Rosqueta's salary.

Perhaps a little background is necessary. Valera, an outsider, was appointed late last year without any explanation, to replace Rosqueta, a customs career official. There is no graft complaint against Rosqueta, so why was she being replaced? Simply to give a job to Valera.

Rosqueta secured a restraining order (and later a permanent injunction) from the Manila Regional Trial Court, but the BOC was able to get a temporary restraining order (TRO) from the Court of Appeals. When that TRO expired, the RTC ordered Rosqueta restored to her position. In spite of the court order, however, Valera continued to perform the functions of deputy commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring and collecting the salary for the position. Rosqueta was not given any work. These acts are clearly illegal, constitute contempt of court and are criminal in nature. Hence the complaint against Valera and Villanueva, who retaliated by stopping the payment of Rosqueta's salary. (See "As I See It," 2/12/02)

The surprising thing is that while Villanueva "ordered" the non-payment of the salary of Rosqueta, who is the lawful deputy commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring, he merely "requested" Valera, who is the impostor, "to stop claiming his salary" during the pendency of the case.

The withholding of Rosqueta's salary has no legal basis whatsoever as she has neither been suspended nor removed from office. She has continuously reported for work at the BOC and has tried to exercise the function of her office in spite of the usurpation of her duties and harassment, interrupted only briefly by the Court of Appeals TRO which expired on Nov. 14, 2001.

On the other hand, in spite of the injunction of the Manila RTC prohibiting Villanueva, Camacho and Valera from "implementing or enforcing the appointment of respondent Gil Valera to the position of Customs Deputy Commissioner for Revenue Collection and Monitoring and respondent Gil Valera from assuming the said office or exercising its functions," Villanueva allowed the latter to exercise the functions of said office and to be paid salaries that are not due him. These are illegal acts and contempt of court for which these officials are criminally liable. The Ombudsman gave Villanueva 10 days to show cause why he should not be suspended, but he asked for 20 days. Very clever. After 20 days, he would already have retired.

"The filing of the complaint against you (Villanueva) and other officials" of the BOC by Rosqueta "is not a legal ground to withhold her salary," wrote her counsel Nelson Reyes in a letter to the customs chief. "As a public official, it is her duty to see to it that the law is followed. Therefore, your directive to withhold (her) salary because of the filing of the complaint against you...is patently malicious. It is clearly a retaliatory act and, for that reason, void and actionable. Considering the announcement by the Office of the President that you have already been replaced as Commissioner of Customs, your order is a 'midnight directive' obviously intended for no other purpose except to spite and injure Deputy Commissioner Rosqueta."

Villanueva claimed that his order is "in compliance with the provisions of Rule IV, Section 1 of the Revised Omnibus Rules of Appointment and other Personnel Actions, CSC MC No. 40, series 1998 as amended by CSC MC No. 15, series 1999." This is baseless. Said rule does not say anything about withholding the salaries of government officials.

"If it is your position that Valera is the *de jure* Deputy Commissioner for Revenue Collection and Monitoring," continued Rosqueta's counsel, "then why are you requesting him to stop claiming his salary during the pendency of CA-G.R. SP No. 66070? This merely shows that you are not convinced about the legality of the advice given to you by the Office of the Solicitor General."

Secretary Camacho can do something to stop this foolishness. He can order his subordinate, Villanueva, to stop violating the law. Refusal to stop the illegal acts constitutes negligence. Or is he actually conspiring with Villanueva to harass Rosqueta?

Back to the future

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TRULY, Sept. 21 has been a watershed in history. But I don't know that it is a huge dividing line between past and present, as the articles written about it have said. Or that it ineluctably separates what has happened before and what has happened after. From where I stand, it has been more like a point that has sucked in time and caused it to be jumbled, the past flowing into the future and the future flowing into the past like waters tumbling every which way. I myself feel like I just woke up to find myself somewhere in the 1950s, like Michael Fox's character in "Back to the Future."

That's what I feel every time I see pictures of American soldiers in various action-movie poses in the newspapers. Which is nearly every day: those soldiers are arriving in droves, with more and more action-movie weaponry, and their exploits, or about-to-be exploits, are chronicled in every detail in media. That's what I feel at the patent acceptance, and even adulation, of those soldiers in places like Zamboanga. That's what I feel about the spate of movies depicting American action in enemy territory—or the territory of other sovereign states, except that that concept has now become insubstantial—or of American soldiers being downed in enemy territory sparking action-movie rescue attempts.

Except for the slick and polish of the movies, and the more people-friendly skills of some of the American soldiers in Basilan—one even speaks Filipino—I feel like I'm looking at the John Wayne war movies and the Edward Lansdale-type "advisers" of the 1950s. The same larger-than-life mythical quality of the American military presence is there. The same groundswell of admiration for what used to be G.I. Joe is there. The same black-and-white, good-versus-bad, hero vs. villain, riving of the world is there, except that the good guys no longer wear white or sport clean-shaven chins despite languishing in the sweltering jungles of Sumatra.

The older generation, or the one that came before us, may say things today feel more like the 1940s than the 1950s, especially during "Liberation." They may have a point. I wasn't around yet then, but I have heard stories about the euphoria of that time. Every American solider was called Joe and presumed to be an inexhaustible source of cigarettes, chocolates and canned goods. For many Filipinos, that was the very essence of salvation. The rhetoric of "I shall return" hung in the air. MacArthur had vowed he would come back, and he had. It did not greatly matter to Filipinos—other perhaps than the Huks who had sacrificed life and limb fighting the Japanese—that MacArthur had come back three long years after he left in a huff and had done so after the local guerrillas had pretty much put the Japanese on the run. Everyone was grateful the Japanese Occupation was over and didn't mind lavishing the Americans with the credit.

The Japanese were the Abu Sayyaf of the time. Probably more: They were aliens—the Abu Sayyaf we presume only to be so because of our anti-Muslim prejudices—upon whom we heaped lavish racial insult: "*sakang, singkit, traydor.*" And they were "*salbahe,*" far more than the Abu Sayyaf has been, or will ever be. The comfort women are eloquent, or sordid, in their testimony of it. The phrase "*malupit pa sa Hapon*" wasn't unjustly earned: The notion that anybody could be more cruel than the Japanese was mind-boggling. The Japanese were the invading force Filipinos loved to hate, and we hated them with a passion. And the Americans were the liberating force we loved to love, and we loved them with a passion.

Growing up in Naga City in the 1950s, I caught the tail end of this spirit. War movies were the stuff of our boyhood talk, John Wayne having his local counterpart in Fernando Poe Jr. I remember how we felt exceptionally honored that Pancho Magalona managed to land a bit role in a Hollywood war movie set in the Philippines, whose title I forget. With reason: It was completely forgettable. "*Amerikano*" was a word that signified more than nationality, it signified benevolence. The word resonated with all the meanings of providence. I recall that the first time someone told me we had once been at war with America, I refused to believe it. When confronted with proof, I reasoned that America had done so for our own good. It was a concept the teachers of my school corroborated with enthusiasm: America had come to save us from the Spaniards even before they saved us from the Japanese. Why Emilio Aguinaldo and others chose to misconstrue that, only they could say. Aguinaldo, quite incidentally, was still alive at that time, punished with obscurity—we thought, completely justly—for fighting the Americans.

I caught a glimpse of this again last week when I visited Naga City. People had just seen "Behind Enemy Lines" and were looking forward to watching "Black Hawk Down," and the images there fused with the ones in Basilan. The days of the Abu Sayyaf, one youth predicted darkly, were over. The Americans had come, they were going to make them pay. I felt like I had been thrust back to the 1950s, listening to tales of the "*panahon ng Hapon*" after watching "Guadalcanal Diary."

I had thought the 1960s, which ushered in a more thoughtful, or iconoclastic, era, tearing down the easy divisions between the good guys and the bad guys, had buried all these forever. Not so, as it turns out. Osama bin Laden's suicidal pilots did not just raze a couple of towers, it razed the barriers between past and present, allowing the one to slip into the other and without warning. We've just slid back in time, and no one seems the wiser for it.

Or we're back to the future, as the title of the movie so wittily puts it. Hurtling to the past.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Time for any deal or trade-off has passed

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE MOVE by former President Joseph Estrada to seek medical treatment abroad for his arthritic knees is a dramatic reversal of his position during his last hours in Malacañang Palace on Jan. 19, 2001, and during the first month of the successor government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

During negotiations between the Macapagal panel and representatives of Estrada over demands for his resignation in the late hours of Jan. 19, he was offered the option of leaving the country, but his melodramatic response was that he would rather die in the Palace. At the time, his die-hard political advisers counseled him not to resign and insist on a five day-transition period before he quits. They believed that the five days would give him time to recruit military and police support to turn back the tide against the forces pushing for Ms Macapagal's oath-taking.

From the evening of Jan. 19 to the morning of the following day, the advisers of Vice President Macapagal counseled her that to avoid a messy takeover, that period was a window of opportunity to allow Estrada to leave the country, without inviting reaction from groups in the streets seeking Estrada's ouster. The situation was then very confused, fluid and uncertain—and an Estrada flight could easily be explained.

But Estrada hoped he could still reverse the situation and did not show any serious interest in this options.

Two other reasons why he did not pursue the option were (1) that there was hardly any embassy or foreign country who was eager to give him asylum; and (2) that, unlike former President Marcos, Estrada had not laid carefully the foundations overseas to which he could direct his allegedly plundered wealth.

Although Estrada missed this window to escape, the Macapagal administration continued to encourage Estrada to take the escape option up until February. At the time, the airports, especially in the South, were on high alert and aviation authorities examined closely flight plans of private aircraft. Estrada was afraid that if he had fled, he could be shot down. After that, public opinion had solidified against allowing Estrada to seek asylum abroad.

Today, even though Estrada is in jail, he remains a center from which moves to destabilize the Macapagal administration can be mounted. The Sandiganbayan has rejected petitions by Estrada's lawyers seeking medical treatment for him in the United States, although Filipino doctors have insisted that surgery on his knees could be performed here.

After nearly a year in detention while awaiting trial on charges of plunder, life in prison has taken a heavy toll on Estrada. Being an extroverted person, he cannot take life in isolation from his "*barkada*" and he must have regretted not grabbing the opportunity to flee when it was available.

Estrada's lawyers have done their utmost—and have succeeded—in delaying the trial, but their tactics have been blunted by the appointment of a new justice whose exclusive task is to speed up the trial. His lawyers are now saying that they could not keep up with the schedule because they have other cases. Their position is hard to justify. The speedy administration of justice is a desired process in the judicial system, and lawyers are sworn to facilitate trial—not to obstruct or delay it.

Around 130 congressmen who signed the resolution seeking to allow Estrada to leave for the United States to have medical treatment, as well as senators who have issued a statement in support of allowing him to leave, are now reviving the option that Estrada had rejected in January 2001.

The resolution may have bipartisan support, but allowing Estrada to leave flies in the face of strong opposition built on the argument that such a flight would make a mockery of justice. Some opposition congressmen, who are also Estrada's political allies, are saying that his departure would buy peace for the Macapagal administration. It is like pulling a thorn from her body, it is argued.

In other words, Estrada's departure is a trade-off to securing domestic political peace, but the opposition is not giving any assurance that Estrada's departure would stop it from waging political guerrilla warfare on the administration. Already, President Macapagal has come under fire for not throwing cold water on the move to get Estrada out of the country. The President is emphatic that the initiative for the resolution did not come from her, but at the same time, she did not stop her own party mates and allies from signing the resolution.

Because of this ambivalence, the President has been accused of encouraging a political trade-off in which Estrada would be allowed to go "for humanitarian reasons" and perhaps never to return. Such a compromise will mean that the plunder and other criminal cases laid against him, would languish and would eventually be quashed.

The backfire against this compromise could rock the administration even as it wants to see Estrada neutralized. Asylum for Estrada, in whatever disguise or for humanitarian reasons, collides with the powerful argument that if he were allowed to escape without a judgment on his criminal cases, this administration—or any other administration in the future—could never hold responsible before the courts any president for gross abuse of office and power. The time for a deal or trade-off for political expediency is behind us.

A Filipino-Hispanic spectacle

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SPANISH Ambassador to Manila Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja is a rare combination of diplomat and artist. After more than 15 years in Spain's foreign service, he took a leave of absence from diplomacy to pursue an earlier love for writing and theater.

During the 10 years he spent away from the diplomatic service, some of it spent working for Broadway productions, Ambassador Pantoja recalls that his mother would call him nearly every day, asking him when he would get over this infatuation with theater and return to his calling as a diplomat. He was "crazy" to be wasting his time in the company of such "corrupted" people, she would scold.

Eventually, the ambassador returned to the world of diplomacy but it seems he couldn't abandon theater altogether. Though it's only by coincidence, he will mark his first year as ambassador to this country by staging "Bravo! Zarzuela," a spectacle of music and dance that he wrote and directed. It will be adapted for the first time in theater after a successful airing on European TV. "This show intends to present the true magnificence of the fusion of our two cultures through something which is common to our people: their passion for music and dance," says the ambassador.

"Bravo! Zarzuela" goes onstage at the Cultural Center from Feb. 21-23 at 8 p.m. After this first run, says Pantoja, the Spanish Embassy plans to bring the show to other countries in the region.

* * *

"BRAVO! Zarzuela" features the combined talents of more than a hundred Spanish and Filipino singers and dancers.

After the memorandum of agreement was signed by the Spanish Embassy and the CCP, Pantoja says he was initially worried because there was so little time left for rehearsals. In Spain, performers normally needed two months to rehearse, even if they are already familiar with the songs and dances. But for the local production, they had just over a month for the preparations.

After rehearsals started, though, Pantoja says he realized his apprehensions were needless. "Remember that the Filipinos are just learning the dances for the first time. But they got it, because you have unbelievable talent here." And to think, the choreographer could only speak Spanish!

In fact, adds Pantoja, the audience at "Bravo! Zarzuela" may not even notice the difference between the Spanish and Filipino performers save perhaps for their looks. "The Spanish dancers come from a culture where the dance is indigenous and have been dancing it almost all their lives. The Filipinos (who are not familiar with it) are not any different from the Spaniards when it comes to dancing ability."

Indeed, notes the ambassador, "sometimes, when the Filipinos do the movements of the dance with fans, they can even be more Spanish than the Spaniards! We have about five young dancers who can dance really very well. I would say that if they were in Spain, they could be big stars!"

* * *

NEWLY confirmed Commission on Audit Chair Guillermo Carague invited me to lunch at his COA offices recently to talk about the latest developments in this constitutional body.

Over simple fare of fish, shrimp and vegetables, Carague explained the various initiatives in policy and procedures that he has undertaken at the COA in just barely a year.

The most basic—but most far-ranging—initiative is the shift from what he called a "50-year-old and outmoded" accounting system, to a new government accounting system more in line with accepted and modern methods of accounting that is more adaptable to computerization.

But what makes this fundamental shift in the way the government keeps track of its finances all the more remarkable is that it was carried out in record time by an all-Filipino (and all-COA) team at minimal cost to the government.

Carague says that during his term as budget secretary in the Aquino administration, he had already felt frustrated at dealing with the "antiquated" system of accounting used by the COA. So upon his appointment to the body, he set out to explore how the system could be overhauled. He formed a committee of COA insiders who had intimate knowledge of the auditing requirements of the bureaucracy. "They were the best people to conceptualize, design and carry out the new system," notes Carague. "If I had tried to do it myself, I would have had to learn the whole system from scratch.

* * *

HAVING earned his accounting and auditing spurs at SGV and Andersen Consulting, Carague says confidently that "I know a good accounting system when I see one." And the new system, he says, is one of the best he has seen. He believes that by tapping the professionalism of his COA officers, they saved the government from P1-2 billion which would have been spent on foreign consultants. Just to show how simple and clear the new accounting system is, Carague says it took them just two months to orient government departments, agencies, corporations and local governments down to the municipal level. Right now, they are well into computerizing the systems, using software that the COA's own IT people, along with consultants from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, created.

Another welcome development is Carague's election to an unprecedented six-year term as a member of the UN Board of Auditors. His election, said Carague, speaks well of the high regard with which the rest of the world holds Filipino auditors. At present, he says, the UN system contracts independent auditors from only three countries: France, South Africa and the Philippines.

Uses of history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE FIRST step my historical research usually begins with is an idea or a query, the second step entails tedious browsing through library and archive catalogues, the third step is the actual research. In my experience, collating the material and reflecting on it takes the longest time, yet I do not complain because I truly enjoy research. I can spend hours, days, even weeks holed-up in a library or archive reading and browsing, but the real chore is sitting down and writing up my research. When I face a blank computer screen to beat yet another Tuesday or Thursday deadline, I envy the novelists and poets who can afford to wait for blue moons and the so-called "right mood." For me, the only inspiration is the deadline. Depending on how much I have digested the raw historical material, my writing can be quick and easy or long and painful.

I have lived to see the change in a century, the coming of a new millennium. I have crossed over from manual to electric typewriters, from writing long-hand to e-mail. I felt my world change 20 years ago when I saw a fax machine for the first time transmit a line drawing from one room to another. I did not realize then that within my lifetime I could transmit pictures and text on the Net to any destination on earth that was wired. Being a historian, living and working in 2002 has its rewards. For one, I appreciate Jose Rizal's early efforts at research on the pre-colonial Philippines. Rizal had to travel to the British Museum in London and copy out, by hand, the entire first edition of "Sucesos de las Islas Filpinas." Today I can get a facsimile copy of Morga's work from my bookshelf. The once heavy 55-volume Blair and Robertson is now accessible on a CD-ROM with search function! Rizal's life may have been short but his output is impressive even in our time. What would Rizal have accomplished if he had a laptop, a digicam, or had access to the Internet? Would he have written more or like me indulged in worthless surfing? Even if technological gadgets have made historical research easier, we have yet to unearth 30 percent of our written history. What about pre-history?

Today I can browse the catalogue of the US Library of Congress online from Manila and hope to see the day when I can read books half the world away from the comfort of my study. Technology has made the world a smaller place and historical work much more convenient, but the task of the historian is still long and lonely. In the end, history still requires a human mind. My laptop stores and sorts my data but it cannot think, reflect and connect unrelated data. When people marvel at my seemingly effortless output, they only see the finished product, not the years of reading, travel and conversation that contribute to every trivial column I produce.

Many of my columns are but the beginnings of larger research projects that I hope other people will continue. My greatest joy comes when I hear from students doing research papers, theses or even dissertations that began when they read one of my columns. How I wish I had two more lifetimes if only to look up every interesting reference in the 400-page "Bibliography of the Philippine Islands" printed in two parts by the US Government Printing Office in 1903 and reprinted in one volume by the National Historical Institute in 1994. It is hardly used, often ignored by researchers, but in the wake of the Balikatan exercises I shook the dust from this heavy volume and opened it to discover how much material the United States had on her new colony at the beginning of the last century. There is enough material here to launch a hundred careers in history.

Most of the books and maps listed in this bibliography can be found in research libraries in Manila, but some materials are quite obscure. For example, the listing of "United States Consular Reports" was an eye-opener for me because unlike consuls today who are bogged down by visa applications, their counterparts a century earlier were keen on the economic prospects of the Philippines. Culled from reports from 1882 to 1902, the topics covered were: free tobacco culture in the Philippine islands, exports from the Philippines, fruit culture in the Philippines, projected railways, agriculture, agricultural products, sugar industry, beer, poultry, pearl fisheries and pearl supply, etc. There was much economic data with detailed reports on customs duties, port charges, commerce, industrial condition, Mexican dollars in the Philippines, extension of markets for American flour, Oriental market for dairy products and fruits, imports of shoes, musical instruments and furniture into the Philippines, Swiss goods in the Philippines, exports of cheese and candles to the Philippines, Manchester exports to Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, even notes on a steamship line from Hamburg to the Philippines.

Much of the data from these consular reports may be dated, but the insights from that time also shed light on the present—maybe even the future. Who says there is no use for history? Going through a 1903 bibliography on the Philippines tells us a lot about who we were, who we are and who we will be.

* * *

Comments to ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The next 12 months

"The truth is rarely pure, and never simple."—**Oscar Wilde**

CHAFF FROM THE GRAIN

Hector R. R. Villanueva

UNLESS there are dramatic and tangible accomplishments in the next 12 months, the Macapagal administration will be hard put to secure a fresh mandate in 2004.

If, by this time next year, there has not been a marked reduction in kidnapping-for-ransom incidents; the Abu Sayyaf bandits have not been wiped out and the American Special Forces are overstaying their welcome, and sucked into the conflict and doing the "hot pursuit" themselves; and sizeable long-term private fixed investments have not come in; and presidential hopefuls are already grandstanding and positioning themselves, then it is plausible that no serious business will be accomplished in 2003; private investors will further wait and see; poverty alleviation will be relegated to the backburner and politics will take center stage to become the one and only topic of interest and obsession of Filipinos from 2003 to 2004.

Moreover, if American troops are still here in 2003, suffering casualties and KIAs and causing embarrassments and injury to Filipino sensibilities, the popular decision of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo today to unequivocally support the war against terror policy of US President George W. Bush and to send in American troops to Basilan (and maybe Sulu), will eventually "boomerang" on her, and will become a hot election issue in 2004 with negative effects on her election bid.

Thus, speaking hypothetically, now is the best time for President Macapagal to call for a snap presidential election and "legitimize," so to speak, her tenure, assuming that it can be done legally and expeditiously, when her popularity and approval ratings are at their all-time peak, and there are no formidable and winnable rivals at the moment. By mid-2003, it will be a new ballgame with lots of rivals.

In the meantime, what to do?

First, the Macapagal administration must noticeably reduce graft and corruption in the government, through a determined and forceful campaign against erring public officials, abusive men in uniform, and assaults against private property and persons, such as rampant fake Torrens titles, widespread squatting, burglaries, rapes, corrupt magistrates and pervasive smuggling.

The Macapagal administration must show dramatic and visible reduction in these areas of common concern to ordinary citizens.

Second, poverty alleviation is a motherhood statement that cannot be understood or appreciated by the marginalized sectors of civil society.

It takes money to take care of the poor, and the poor cannot wait.

Thus, the President should directly empower, fund and assist local governors and mayors to undertake visible and doable projects with maximum and direct impact on the poor in their respective localities. The local officials involved will be monitored and made accountable for their respective projects and subject to summary dismissal or suspension should the funds allocated be misused or the projects are unfinished per their own deadlines.

In this manner, there is something to inspect, and to expect, from the rural areas whose poor, and whose needs, are well known to the local officials.

The projects can be modest and specific to those who need them most whether it be temporary shelter, subsidized rice, makeshift schoolhouses, clinics, free medicines, used clothing, or temporary employment, such as, *estero* cleanup, street sweeping, reforestation and beautification and other chores other than doles which are humiliating and dehumanizing.

In short, what is expected in the next 12 months are (1) noticeable reduction in kidnappings; (2) indictments of public officials; (3) greater concentration on small and medium enterprises with adequate credit; (4) stable inflation; (5) less smuggling; and (6) last but not least, visible and tangible projects with maximum impact on the poorest of the poor. Easier said than done but preferable to plastic talk and whistle stops...

* * *

HERE AND THERE

Apart from recently retired Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo, there are four other Supreme Court justices due to retire within this year, and six Court of Appeals justices also due to retire within 2002...There are 300 vacancies in the judiciary with nearly half of the vacancies in the Metropolitan Trial Courts...Thus, the next batch of justices and judges will owe their appointments to President Macapagal...By the way, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, formerly of the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz Law firm, and of the Estrada impeachment fame, looms as the strongest candidate to succeed Ombudsman Aniano Desierto when the latter retires in August...We also heard that Ding Salvador, being a US citizen, declined the presidency of UCPB, although legal, since the UPCB is a government sequestered bank...In the meantime, it is public knowledge that Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona has been smarting and hurting ever since Roberto Romulo had been acting as the shadow foreign secretary responsible for most of the recent appointments of non-career ambassadors...Regrettably, the performance of Guingona either as Vice President or foreign secretary, or as president of Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, like this current administration, has been lackluster and uninspiring...Nevertheless, Guingona is a man of consistent principles, unassailable integrity and great courage...Meanwhile, if Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva do not wish to tarnish further the already tarnished image of the military, they should immediately order the officers and enlisted men, found squatting in New Fairview Subdivision, Quezon City to vacate the lots they are occupying that do not belong to them...These lots belong to low level clerks and government employees who continue to remit their monthly amortizations to the Pag-IBIG, SSS or GSIS...This is a clear case of military abuse...Reyes and Villanueva are aware of these complaints and the names of the officers and soldiers involved but have not acted on them...

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Are schools ready for new curriculum?

WE heard that the Department of Education will start implementing a revised/modified elementary and secondary curriculum next school year. This will entail revisions of a school's academic programs and activities, school forms, e.g. report cards and student's permanent records, textbook procurement and more important, reorientation for teachers. We barely have four months before school year 2002-2003 starts, but until now, we are still groping in the dark as to the "what and how" of the revised/modified curriculum.

Were there any studies made about its merits from which we can draw comparison with the existing curriculum? When the DepEd is occupied by a new tenant by the year 2004, will a single stroke of the new education secretary's pen change things again? That's too short a time to evaluate whether the soon to be implemented curriculum is advantageous or disadvantageous.

This needs a lot of explaining.

—ERNIE D. ROSALES JR., St. John Fisher School, Camella Springville-West, Molino 3, Bacoor, Cavite

Hypocrisy in anti-piracy crusade

REGARDING the recent crusade of entertainers to combat piracy of their intellectual property, all I can say is: hypocrisy!

Where do you think the background music of many of our movies, for instance, come from? They are lifted from Hollywood soundtracks! I recall a local teen romance movie using the theme from "Jurassic Park," of all things. Is that legal?

A very popular radio show uses the themes from "Hawaii Five-O" and "Star Wars" as its signature themes. Isn't that piracy?

Now I know why the credits of some of our movies, instead of acknowledging a composer, have entries like: "Music by Boyet," Boyet obviously being the guy who copied the Hollywood soundtracks.

Apparently, it isn't piracy if you lift music and images from foreign sources, who can't get at you.

—FRANCIS BERNARDO, 335 Masikap St., Tondo, Manila

Boxing capital?

THIS refers to your editorial "Freak show" last Feb. 13, 2002.

We should praise Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for his bold plan to hold the Mike Tyson-Lennox Lewis world heavyweight championship fight in Manila. In fact, I would like Manila to become the boxing capital of the world.

When Tyson enters the ring, he is not there as a rapist but as a sportsman. In the same way, when a sinner-priest says Mass or hears a confession, he is acting as alter Christus (another Christ) and not as a sinner. Likewise, when former President Estrada was signing legislative bills into laws, he was signing not as a womanizer or corrupt executive but as a duly elected President of our country.

I agree that Tyson is not Mohammed Ali. But who is perfect?

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com

Don't make sweeping judgments

I DON'T know whether raising Kirin's buy-in price for San Miguel Corp.'s shares just because SMC's share prices increased in the stock market is or is not, as Conrado Banal III put it, "stupid." But to credit me with this "bright, daring idea" is an undeserved, even if left-handed, compliment. Perhaps Banal might find the sense of professional fairness to talk to Doris Dumlao, the INQUIRER reporter who quoted me in the paper's Feb. 2 issue as saying, "We're going to study that given the market trends." The "that" is precisely the issue of whether to ask for a revaluation of Kirin's buy-in price.

As Banal himself noted, the "market trends" could go either way. That is why I said it should be "studied," not done. Is it wrong for a commissioner of the Philippine Commission on Good Government to study a matter that clearly affects the value of sequestered SMC shares and the interest of small coconut farmers? I don't think so.

That the INQUIRER's business editors would choose to write this as a story titled, "Government eyes higher price for SMC shares" is a matter of editorial judgment, just as Banal calling me "stupid" or questioning my "sanity" is a matter of his judgment. But on what did Banal base his sweeping judgment on a "bright, daring idea" that I didn't even propose? What would that make the ATR Kim Eng Securities research which, in the same story, actually came up with that analysis for the stock market?

Banal should have some respect for persons he hardly knows. For if I were to make a similar sweeping judgment about Banal, based on a single incident that I know he was involved a few years ago, I could easily conclude that he sells his INQUIRER columns to the highest bidder. Others would call Banal an "attack-collect-defend-collect" columnist, a paid hack with no principles. But that is their judgment, not mine. I don't want to judge Banal's integrity so sweepingly. I hope he can also be as fair in judging those he doesn't know well enough to call by any name.

My unsolicited advice: If Banal wants to write an irreverent yet intelligent column, witless puns and sweeping insults are no substitutes.

—RUBEN CARRANZA, commissioner, Presidential Commission on Good Government

Erap being denied equal protection

DIETER J. Lonishen seems to be an alien (Letters, 2/13/02) and, I would surmise, one used to the jury system, where a lawyer takes on a few cases, uses various modes of discovery such as depositions, and goes to trial, daily, morning and afternoon, until a jury, composed of laymen with lives of their own, but usually sequestered for the duration, comes up with a verdict. In our country, the system that has developed, willy-nilly, is that we have trials every few weeks or so. All lawyers with some years of experience have their schedules full of trial dates for months down the line,

That is the situation of the panel of lawyers of Joseph Estrada, not one of whom comes from a big law firm. This is the age of e-mail, fax and computers, which means lawyers get work even on Good Friday or Christmas Day, and every hour day and night, from all over the world. Life was so much simpler in the old days.

Thus, the Sandiganbayan's announced preference to hold thrice a week and even daily hearings on Erap's case is simply impossible for me to adjust to. That is why my own decision is to leave the case and continue to serve those whom Lonishen dismisses as not important people (in unimportant cases). In time, Erap can find other lawyers, or the court can try public attorneys who are under Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. But I wonder if the Sandiganbayan can find experienced, competent private lawyers to serve any client five days a week without destroying the rest of their practice.

Erap has been deposed, detained and disgraced and should not have to be aided by fatigued lawyers, the sore winners notwithstanding who condone the corruption that has grown in the last year or so. This is not to say it is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's fault, but corruption has truly become a way of life. Singling out one man, punished in a sense far beyond what any court can impose, for seeming persecution with an evil eye and an unequal hand, is a divisive denial of equal protection. I won't have it.

—R.A.V. SAGUISAG, 4045 Bigasan St., Palanan, Makati City

Distinction between spiritual and mental processes

JAIME Licauco's column last Feb. 12, 2002 was about a query I e-mailed to him for the purpose of engaging in a friendly exploratory private discussion. (I didn't receive an e-mail reply though. I was therefore surprised to find him dissecting the query publicly in his column.) I would now like to say something about his comments.

I don't think Licauco got the gist of my query. It's this: We all have a responsibility to teach our young the right values right alongside the truth, but how will we do that if we can't even separate the myth from the real? My question was: "Isn't it better to approach one's living through the soul (spiritual) rather than through the ego (mental)?"

Licauco implied that I was wrong in making a distinction between discernment as a spiritual process and thought or visualization as a mental process, giving as proof the scientific experiment of a biologist named Roger Sperry on the left and right hemispheres of the human brain. Thus, Licauco's definition of the mind as "the thinking faculty of the soul" with an example thrown in of a table existing first in the mind of a carpenter before its eventual production.

But the bone of contention is in the fact that because science has only dealt with organic matter, it cannot pass judgment on the spiritual matter which Licauco is trying to do. What makes him think that scientists are always right about the experiments they conduct? Why would he be supportive of a scientific finding when he himself has said in the opening paragraph of his column that "orthodox materialist science has perpetuated the myth (about the physical world being the only reality there is)"? Is Licauco aware that he is straddling both sides of the fence?

Licauco may have some qualms about giving credence to what an unknown and uncredentialed person like me has to say but the truth is that it is the ego that, besides making wild guesses, decides on simple earthly matters such as designing a table or painting on a canvas with some degrees of inspiration while it is the soul that one must consult when a decision on higher matters such as values must be made. Doesn't he know that one's spirituality is jarred and unsettled when the ego is allowed to interfere in one's value formation with selfish impositions?

I'm not saying that one must stop thinking or being mental, but rather that one must first understand that the quality of our thoughts has deteriorated because we can't detach ourselves from the ego long enough to know the soul. That's why we can't make a distinction between what's right and what's wrong. The truth of it is discernible.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, Las Piñas City

Just exercising her right, doing her duty

THIS refers to your Feb. 14 editorial in which you stated that Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta abused the instrument of filibustering in the legislature by attempting to block the confirmation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho at the committee level of the Commission on Appointments.

We would like to point out that Oreta did not abuse the use of this tradition, but was merely exercising her rights and duties as a member of the commission to determine Camacho's fitness for his crucial job as head of the country's economic team. Contrary to your editorial's claim, the abuse was not committed by Oreta, but by the members of the Senate majority who muzzled her from further asking questions relevant to Camacho's capability and character for the job. This sorry situation in which members of the Senate majority brazenly ganged up on Oreta paved the way for the railroading of Camacho's confirmation at the committee level, reducing the hearing to a kangaroo proceeding.

Far from "getting the wrong cue," as your editorial had said about Oreta, it looks like it was your newspaper, which has committed this twice in attacking the senator. Your editorial stated that Oreta was "isolated" when she single-handedly tried to block Camacho's confirmation, but this is not true because your newspaper itself bannered a story last Feb. 12 about the walkout by the entire Senate minority from the plenary session after it learned of the way that the commission's finance committee railroaded Camacho's confirmation.

Your editorial also got the wrong cue when it raised the vendetta angle against the senator. Oreta was not exacting revenge on anyone; she was merely probing into the character of Camacho to determine if he is fit for the job. The senator wanted to make sure about the strength of Camacho's character by asking about his involvement in the PEACe bonds controversy. She wanted to determine if Camacho, although highly qualified to head the country's economic team, would serve the interests of the majority of Filipinos and not those bent on shortchanging them and the government.

If Oreta was merely abusing her privilege and raising non-issues, why did the Senate leadership decide to delay Camacho's final confirmation in last Wednesday's scheduled plenary after the members of the chamber's majority made sure that the finance chief's nomination was approved at the committee level? We leave it to you and your readers to draw conclusions as to why members of the ruling party in the commission had decided to defer Camacho's confirmation when they had earlier flagrantly violated the rules just to make sure that his appointment gets approved in time for this week's Commission on Appointment plenary session.

—TERESITA S. CASTILLO, chief of staff of Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Rm. 511, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Placer Dome leaves RP, blames government

COMMENTARY

Catherine Coumans, Ph.D.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

JUST before Christmas, Canadian mining giant Placer Dome slipped unceremoniously out of the Philippines after more than 30 years of doing business here. What Placer Dome left behind were millions of tons of toxic mine waste in a bay and two rivers on Marinduque Island, broken promises to the Office of the President, five failing dams in the mountains of Marinduque that are threatening to bury villagers below in more mine waste, any remote chance the company may yet have had of recovering the status of good corporate citizen, and a bitter distrust of mining in general and Canadian miners in particular.

Placer Dome left, soon after a leaked letter from Canadian consultants Klohn Crippen revealed that five dams and structures up at the mountainous mine site in Marinduque are in a state of imminent collapse. The urgent Klohn Crippen letter, dated Aug. 23, 2001, contains warnings such as: "failure of the dam is a virtual certainty in the near term" resulting in "potential for loss of life." Placer Dome hired the consultants and their report was in Placer Dome's hands as early as June 14, 2001. But Placer Dome did not make the report public, did nothing to warn Marinduqueños of the danger they faced, and, in fact, repeatedly denied Marinduqueños and their Canadian supporters access to the report saying it was "confidential" and "proprietary."

The Klohn Crippen letter surfaced on the eve of a congressional inquiry into ongoing complaints about Placer Dome's unfulfilled promises following a massive mine waste spill at Placer Dome's Marcopper mine in Marinduque in 1996. At that time, Placer Dome's CEO made a promise to former President Ramos that Placer Dome would clean up the 26-km long Boac River, which was completely filled with toxic waste, would rehabilitate the sea, where the waste had covered corals, and would compensate affected villagers. All this after President Ramos arrested the two top managers of the Marcopper Mine, who were Placer Dome executives, and threatened to ban the company from future mining in the Philippines. But almost six years after all these promises were made, and five years after Placer Dome divested its 40-percent interest in Marcopper, the Boac River still contains more than half of the spilled waste, the rest has drifted out to sea causing further damage to corals, and thousands of residents of Boac have not yet received compensation. So, on Oct. 9, 2001, a congressional inquiry was going to look into these problems. On the evening of Oct. 8, the Klohn Crippen letter arrived by fax at Marinduque Rep. Edmundo Reyes' office. The terrifying contents of this letter became the main topic of the inquiry, which Placer Dome declined to attend. Two days later, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez issued an order to Placer Dome and the current owners of Marcopper to immediately remediate the failing dams in order to save lives. Rather than do so, Placer Dome decided to pack up and leave the country, delegating the cleanup of the Boac River to Marcopper. In direct contradiction to its Sustainability Policy, Placer Dome did not in any way consult or even inform directly affected Marinduqueños or their elected officials about this sudden major change of plans.

Placer Dome could run, but it could not hide. During the January visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to Canada, she made it clear that Placer Dome's behavior was unacceptable by inviting Reyes to be part of her official delegation, along with Alvarez. Both Reyes and Alvarez made strong statements to a sympathetic media in Canada. Secretary Alvarez raised the issue with his counterparts at Natural Resources Canada and President Macapagal raised it with her counterpart, Prime Minister Jean Chretien. The message they sent was that it is no longer acceptable for large corporations to behave as laws unto themselves. Placer Dome left while under direct orders from Alvarez to fix the dams and Placer Dome relegated the fulfillment of personal promises made directly to the Office of the President in 1996, to a private shareholder of Marcopper in a secret agreement that even the Philippine government is not privy to and cannot oversee. Placer Dome unilaterally decided that the tailings will now be returned to an impoundment in the mountains, but this is one of the structures that Klohn Crippen says is in imminent danger of collapse. Even the amount of funds that Placer Dome made available to Marcopper for the cleanup was kept secret, although it is now known to be $13 million. Again, this unilateral decision that $13 million will be enough is not based on independent scientific assessment, as requested by the people of Marinduque, but just Placer Dome's personal accounting, which is proprietary.

To add insult to injury, in response to negative publicity in the press, radio and TV in Canada, Placer Dome has decided to blame the Philippine government for Placer Dome's own failures. Placer Dome complains that it wanted to clean up the river, but was not given the necessary permits. Placer Dome does not add that the permit it sought was to dump the waste from the river into the ocean, something it would not be allowed to do in its home country!

It is time for Placer Dome to come to the table and work with the Philippine government, the people of Marinduque and their chosen scientific consultants to find solutions to the outstanding problems, or else Placer Dome might find it is easier to leave than to ever come back to the Philippines.

* * *

The good news is that President Macapagal has agreed to an independent study by the United States Geological Survey. The bad news is that the Philippine government will be paying for the mess left behind by a Canadian company.

Why Jollibee sells China-made toys

WE wish to respond to the letter of Arnold C. Divino, titled "Imported snacks in flag carrier." (PDI, 2/8/02)

While Jollibee was not the primary focus of the letter censuring the presence of imported goodies in the national airline, it is nonetheless obliged to answer the letter's parting question which referred to the company: "Why is it that the so-called Filipino fast-food chain is selling toys made in China?"

One of Jollibee's core values is "Always Customer First." In the evaluation of novelty items like toys to be used for promotions, it likewise considers the same value. Thus, Jollibee considers both local and imported toys and they are rated in terms of functionality, durability, appeal and pricing. The toys that rate high in terms of these attributes naturally become its novelty items of choice, all because Jollibee has its customers in mind.

Since the beginning, Jollibee has prided itself as a truly Filipino company and has taken pains to exhibit this by paying its taxes correctly and on time, by providing business opportunities and employment for thousands, by carrying out social development programs, by sourcing raw materials from local sources for most of its product lines, and by striving to improve its products and services. It has also been at the forefront in the internationalization of Philippine business by putting up stores abroad, including the United States and Hong Kong. These have earned Jollibee numerous citations and awards from local and international circles. No doubt, these have brought pride to the Philippines as well.

Jollibee has no qualms about its nationalism being called into question; it will be happy to accommodate those for whom the answers are not obvious. However, the company feels that it is a gigantic leap of logic to think that its choice of supplier, or its nationality for that matter, in any way deprives Jollibee of the right to be a proudly Filipino company. Is Jose Rizal any less Filipino just because he was educated in Spain?

—CLARO F. CERTEZA, vice president for corporate affairs, Jollibee Foods Corp., Pasig City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel jets hit Palestinian targets

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli warplanes struck security buildings in the Palestinian territories early on Tuesday to avenge four Israelis killed in militant attacks, amid reports that Israel planned harsher retaliation.

There were no casualties in the Ramallah strike, but two Palestinian policemen were moderately wounded by flying debris, hospital officials said.

Israeli troops killed two Palestinians and wounded nine during a gunfight early on Tuesday when Israeli soldiers tried to enter the Balata Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Nablus, witnesses and hospital officials said.

They said a woman was killed inside her house from Israeli gunfire, as well as a gunman during the battle. Witnesses said gunmen prevented Israeli commandos in jeeps from entering the camp which lies inside Palestinian ruled territory.

Israeli tanks later thrust 300 meters into Palestinian territory, encircling the camp.

The strikes followed a high-level security meeting in Jerusalem convened by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Monday night to formulate a new approach to a 16-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Israel's Army Radio said Sharon, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Army chief of staff Shaul Mofaz and other security chiefs had decided to step up Israeli retaliation for Palestinian attacks.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that the resolutions reached at the meeting would be presented to the Israeli Cabinet for approval on Wednesday.

A surge of tit-for-tat violence in the past week has increased pressure on Sharon from the political right, which wants tougher action to end Palestinian attacks, and the left wing which wants peace talks.

The latest attacks and reprisals fed the almost daily cycle of violence, whose death toll has risen to at least 854 Palestinians and 267 Israelis since the uprising began in September 2000 after peace talks stalled.

Palestinians welcomed remarks by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah in which he said he had been ready to push for normalization of Arab ties with Israel in return for Israel's full withdrawal from Palestinian lands it occupied in a 1967 war.

But he told the New York Times in remarks published on Sunday that he changed his mind because of Sharon's policies against the Palestinians.

"This is the most important offer that's been made by the Arab world for decades," senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said.

Palestinian security sources said Israeli warplanes destroyed a police headquarters in the Palestinian-ruled West Bank city of Ramallah and part of a security complex in Rafah, a Palestinian refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli Army said the air strikes were in retaliation for a Palestinian militant attack on a convoy near the Gaza Strip's Kissufim crossing on Monday night which killed a Jewish settler and two Israeli soldiers. The militant was also killed.

Earlier in the day, a Palestinian militant killed himself and an Israeli policeman when he detonated explosives in his car near Maale Adumim, a West Bank Jewish settlement close to Jerusalem. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY
Office of the City Treasurer

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY

Republika ng Pilipinas
LUNGSOD QUEZON
Tanggapan ng Ingat-Yaman

PATALASTAS TUNGKOL SA PAGSUSUBASTA SA ARI-ARIANG DI NATITINAG NA AMOROSO SA BUWIS

By virtue of the provisions of Section 260 & 263 of RA 7160, otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, the undersigned will sell at public auction on February 27, 2002, at 10:00 A.M. at the main entrance of the City Hall Quadrangle, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City, the real property herein below specified which are hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real estate tax, to satisfy all delinquent real property taxes, penalties, and costs due thereon as of the date of sale.

Alinsunod sa itinatadhana ng Section 260 & 263 ng RA 7160, o ang tinatawag na Local Government Code of 1991 ang nakalagda sa ibaba ay magsusubasta sa publiko sa Pebrero 27, 2002, sa ganap na ika-10:00 ng umaga sa bungad ng City Hall Quadrangle, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City, ng mga ari-ariang binabanggit sa ibaba na napatunayan na hindi bayad upang mabayaran ang amorosong buwis, multa at halaga ng pagsusubasta.

NO.	PIN #	BLK	LOT	AREA SQ.	BARANGAY	KIND	CLASSIFICATION	TD NO.	N A M E	YEAR	AMOUNT	TCT/OCT
1	1-2274-1	48	4-T		Sto. Niño	I	R	1049	IRENEO CRUZ	90-00	16,180.22	
2	1-459	2	175	211.8	Sto. Niño	L&I	R	1587	MARIETA M. ABUEL	93-00	20,782.88	43097
3	2-1103-A	7R	607	64	SANTOL	L&I	R	1955	JEROME JAVELLANA & CRISTINA	96-00	12,643.66	299807
4	2-206-A-60	1	573		Doña Imelda	I	R	2326	PHIL. WHITEHOUSE AUTO SUPPLY	95-00	157,312.85	
5	2-32-M-3	6	561		Doña Imelda	Mach.	C	3100	BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLAND	94-00	33,632.34	
6	3-5085-A	87	6	66	TATALON	L&I	R	D-3481	ERNESTO GRANADINO	82-00	20,358.78	276244
7	3-7674	12	2	48	TATALON	L&I	R	3816	RUFO RODRIGUEZ	96-00	33,792.05	342111
8	3-8313	36	1	64.1	TATALON	L&I	R	4540	NHA-FRANCISO SULIBA	84-00	15,778.28	
9	3-8868	6	7	67.1	Talayan	L&I	R	612	JOSEPH LORENZO	88-00	49,141.17	
10	5-185	11-A	143	100	G. Silahis	L&I	R	887	DONATO S. ROXAS	95-00	13,682.64	122429
11	5-190	16	143	240	Gintong Silahis	L	R	1583	MERCEDES P. SILVA	95-00	48,416.15	295982
12	9-1063	22	E-60	417.4	West T. Village	L&I	R	296	ANTONIO P. DEL ROSARIO	94-00	23,252.54	316258
13	9-1965-C-31	5 & 6	106		CENTRAL	I	R	1552	EAGLE COURT CONDO. CORP.	99-00	6,377.55	1083/UNIT 336
14	9-1965-C-9	5 & 6	106		Central	I	R	2386	EAGLE COURT CONDOMINIUM CORP.	93-00	14,829.91	2491
15	9-706-A	12	40	401.3	T. Village	L&I	R	629	FRANCISCO DIAZ	96-00	55,742.47	306940
16	9-727	4	E-42	400	E. Teacher	L	R	48	TEODORA COLLANTES	96-00	20,295.00	237563
17	10-805	69	217		Quirino 2-B	L&I	R	589	ALFEO ZALDIVAR	96-00	16,948.82	81808
18	10-699	23	216	215.6	Quirino 2-B	L&I	R	D-698	ESTRELITA HERNANDO SANCHEZ	96-00	23,494.02	87674
19	10-517	14	211	210	Quirino 2-B	L&I	R	36	CARMEN P. RAMOS	86-00	46,157.48	117301
20	10-3449	9	LCH-479	234.2	T. Mascardo	L&I	R	414	LILIA D. TRANCE	96-00	28,178.23	167104
21	10-3448-B	8	LCH-479	207	Villa Ma. Clara	L&I	R	413	RITA BRUNO & SAMUEL BRUNO	96-00	19,709.62	
22	10-3448	8	LCH-479	207	T. Mascardo	L&I	R	413	RITA BRUNO & SAMUEL BRUNO	96-00	19,709.62	133010
23	10-3271-1	13	470	210.1	Milagrosa	L&I	R	2471	CLARENCIO FORONDA	94-00	15,423.29	96173
24	10-1941-1	2-A	420	248.4	Bagong Buhay	L&I	R	D-1050	BIENVENIDO MAGSINO	96-00	31,495.27	106693
25	10-1378-5-A	33-F	308	268.3	Claro	L&I	R	312	PEDRO DELAS ALAS	96-00	12,005.29	
26	11-339	45	11	198.7	Veterans	L&I	R	309	ANTONIO NERIDA	94-00	11,598.30	202829
27	12-954	3	31	600	E. Rodriguez	L&I	C	D-1225	BASILIA HUERTA ESTATE	96-00	193,017.63	
28	12-94	8	4	600	Silangan	L&I	R	526	LUIS RIBAYA	92-00	37,669.50	161106
29	12-583-1	16	19		E. Rodriguez	I	C	3217	ROSITA DELA PAZ	94-00	20,383.44	
30	12-50	18	2PSD	450	Silangan	L&I	R	304	QUINTIN SANTIAGO	79-00	56,049.28	54686
31	12-411	2	10	200	E. Rodriguez	C	R	188	MELICIA DIAZ VDA. DE CARPIO	93-00	36,090.00	164486
32	13-8673	1	3	223	Bagumbayan	L	R	1035	MAXIMO RAMOS	87-00	17,100.47	
33	13-4055	6	10	324	San Roque	L	R	1134	RAMON F. MENDOZA	88-00	20,838.53	98618
34	17-4538	465B2B	PSD-97555	29369	KAINGIN	L	R		REALTY BARON CORP.	79(C)-00	1,406,012.00	
35	18-1153	8	6	401	P.Tamo	L	R	4175	AIDA VENTURA	87-00	16,711.76	
36	18-28289	2A	PSD	65	Bahay Toro	L&I	R	12157	AZUCENA GARCIA/DELSA SEMA	89-00	54,909.42	
37	18-35835	832-A-1	PSD-007404-024883-D	939	Bahay Toro	L	R	11110	CONRADO BORLEO	96-00	23,856.46	89461
38	19-2330	117	FLS.2592-D	600	GULOD	L	R	D-043-01126	TEODORO FLORO	79-00	15,574.73	49017
39	19-2980	494-A-6-F-2	LRCPSD-25661	600	San Bartolome	L	R		ELENA SABILE MEDVA	74-00	16,952.45	
40	19-4381	18	49	150	Sta. Lucia	L&I	R	1917	ALFREDO L. FERRERA	88-00	23,494.04	
41	20-2431	FLS-2696-D	36	400	STA. MONICA	L	R	D-115-00022	AURORA FRANCO	62-00	10,231.43	
42	20-2441	FLS-2696-D	36	1,980	STA. MONICA	L	R	D-115-04169	SEVERINO A. CORTEZ	62-00	54,751.50	
43	20-2628	FLS-2696-D	228	920	STA. MONICA	L	R	D-115-04200	DOMINGO FRANCO PAGKALINAWAN	57-00	25,065.62	
44	20-716	4	19	500	Kaligayahan	L&I	R	14697	ALEGADO, FILMER	95-00	28,419.95	
45	16-2519	RP-3B-B-A-1-B-2		83,605.00	Central	L	SC	1532	KIDNEY CENTER FOUNDATION	87-00	9,635,399.34	
46	20-2127	VARIOUS			San Agustin				MWSS	85-00	142,826,020.62	

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 258 of RA 7160 otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, the foregoing statement of delinquencies is a correct transcript of the records of this Office as of February 12, 2002.

(SGD.) VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D.
OIC, City Treasurer
Quezon City

Dito'y pinatitibayan ko alinsunod sa Seksiyong 258 ng RA 7160, kilala rin bilang The Local Government Code of 1991, na ang mga nauunang paglalahad ng pagkakautang ay wastong salin ng talaan sa Tanggapang ito hanggang Pebrero 12, 2002.

(SGD.) VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D.
OIC, City Treasurer
Quezon City

Bush's Seoul trip to focus on Pyongyang arms

SEOUL—US President George W. Bush arrived in South Korea on Tuesday for a three day-visit expected to thrust the spotlight on North Korea's missile sales and feared weapons of mass destruction.

Security along the heavily fortified frontier with the communist North was stepped up ahead of Bush' first trip to South Korea,' military officials said.

Some 15,000 riot police were also on duty in Seoul to counter anti-US protests. Some demonstrators were detained by police outside the Seoul military air base where Bush's plane arrived from Tokyo, witnesses said.

Bush and his wife Laura were greeted at the base by South Korea's Foreign Minister Choi Song-hong.

US and South Korean Army units, backed by surveillance aircraft, increased monitoring of the demilitarized zone, the unofficial frontier which has divided the Korean peninsula since 1945, military authorities said.

A South Korean defense ministry official however said that no out-of-the-ordinary maneuvers had been seen from the Korean People's Army across the border.

On Wednesday morning, Bush and South Korea's President Kim Dae-jung will hold a summit to discuss how to persuade the communist North to end its missile sales and resume steps to reconcile with the rival South.

The two leaders will go later to the DMZ to make speeches urging the North to withdraw its huge forces away from the tense frontier, officials said.

Bush will get his first sight of North Korea, which he last month said was part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq. "North Korea is a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens," declared the US leader.

But South Korea is worried that Bush's hard line may have undermined Kim's four years of attempts to engage the North peacefully with his "Sunshine Policy."

Bush has insisted he supports the South Korean leader's peace efforts but has also stuck to his uncompromising line over the North's military threat.

"We want to resolve all issues peacefully, whether it be Iraq, Iran or North Korea," Bush said Monday in Tokyo, but he reaffirmed: "I will keep all options on the table."

Japan expressed support for Bush's North Korea policy and in a speech to the Japanese parliament on Tuesday, the US leader said he wanted to defuse tensions on the Korean peninsula. **AFP**

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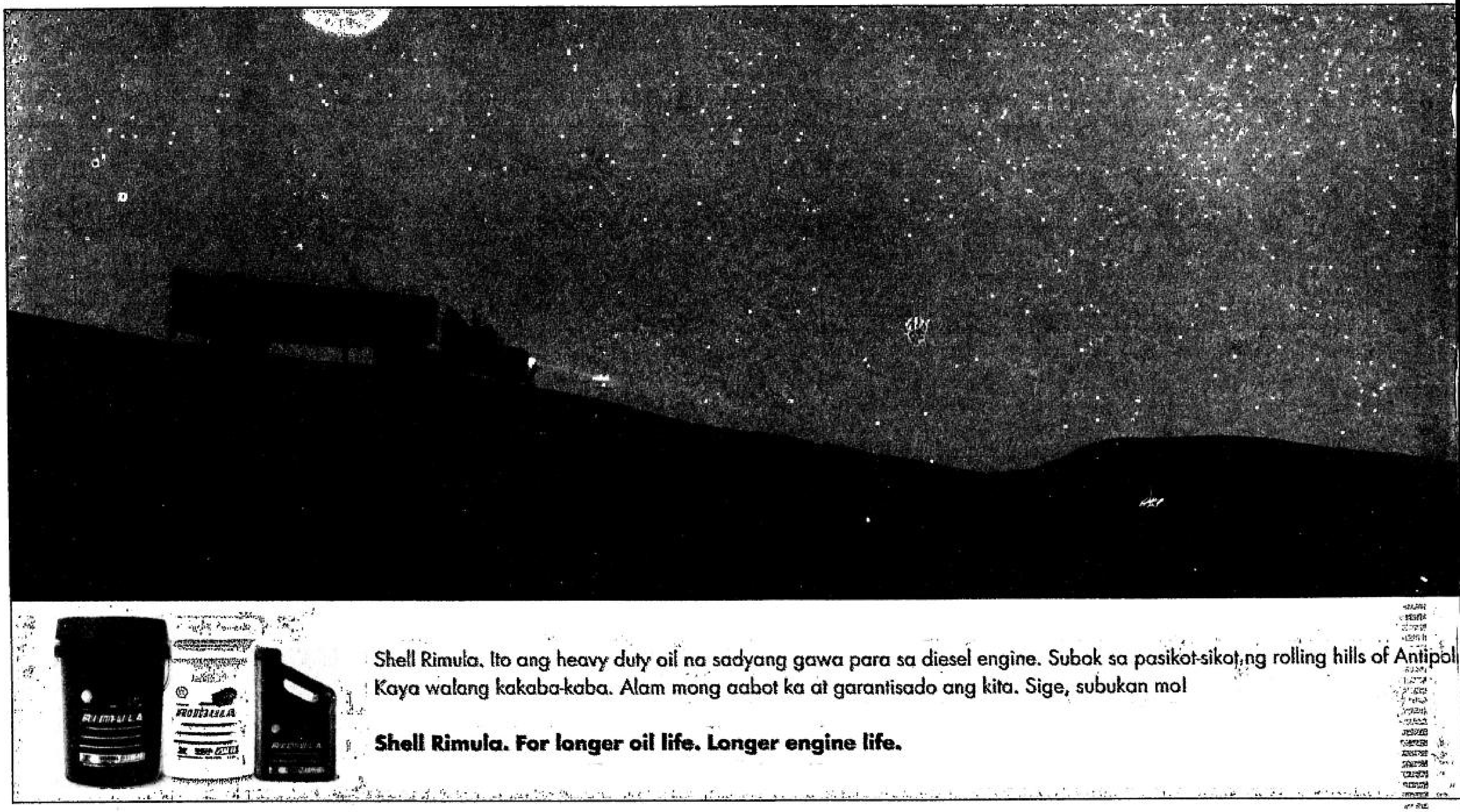

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First witness confronts Milosevic

MILOSEVIC listening to Bakalli

THE HAGUE—A Kosovo Albanian on Monday became the first witness to testify against Slobodan Milosevic, after the fallen Yugoslav leader declared himself a "moral victor" whom the court of world opinion would clear of war crimes.

Milosevic ended a two-and-a-half day address portraying the West as the chief culprit in a decade of Balkan bloodshed, before the Hague war crimes tribunal heard politician Mahmut Bakalli allege a Serbian "scorched earth" policy in its province of Kosovo.

"The truth is on my side. That is why I feel superior here, the moral victor," Milosevic, 60, said as he wound up his longest ever speech before his biggest ever audience.

"The public will speak up. They are the jury. This tribunal doesn't have one," he said. Much of Milosevic's preliminary address has been broadcast by the world media he usually shunned when in power.

Refusing to recognize the court's right to judge him, Milosevic has declined to appoint counsel or even to plead to charges including genocide in the 1992-95 Bosnian War and crimes against humanity in Croatia in 1991-92 and in Kosovo in 1999.

He accused Western nations of hurling former Yugoslavia into war by its hasty recognition of independent Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia as they seceded from the federal state.

"Nationalism was incited, the flames were fanned, to become a full-fledged civil war," he said in the firm, patient tones of a teacher explaining the obvious to a schoolchild.

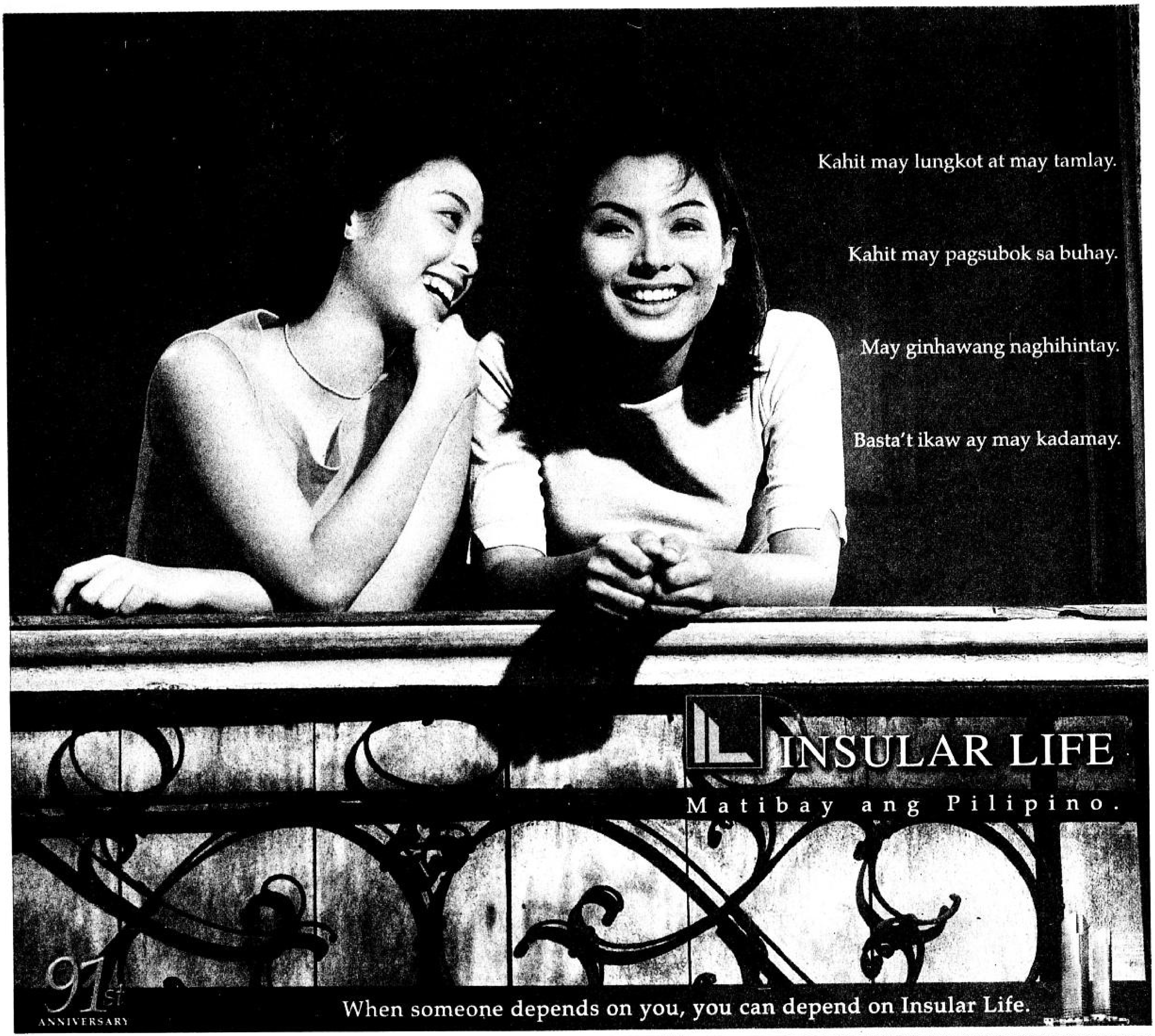
Milosevic, whose landmark trial began last Tuesday, smiled wryly as the prosecution's first witness testified. The bespectacled, balding Bakalli told the three Hague judges he met Milosevic twice in spring 1998.

Bakalli took part in a failed mission to Belgrade in May 1998 which met Milosevic to try to defuse tension after clashes began between Serb security forces and ethnic Albanian guerrillas in the south Serbian province of Kosovo.

The ageing Bakalli—top Communist party official in Kosovo from 1970 until 1981—said David Gajic, then head of Serbian state security in Kosovo, told him of the "scorched earth" policy at a 1998 meeting between Serbs and Albanians.

"Gajic said to me, 'we have a plan . . . with a codename scorched earth policy'. . . Gajic said the purpose of this policy would be to destroy 700 Albanian-populated settlements and to destroy property and to destroy people."

Reuters



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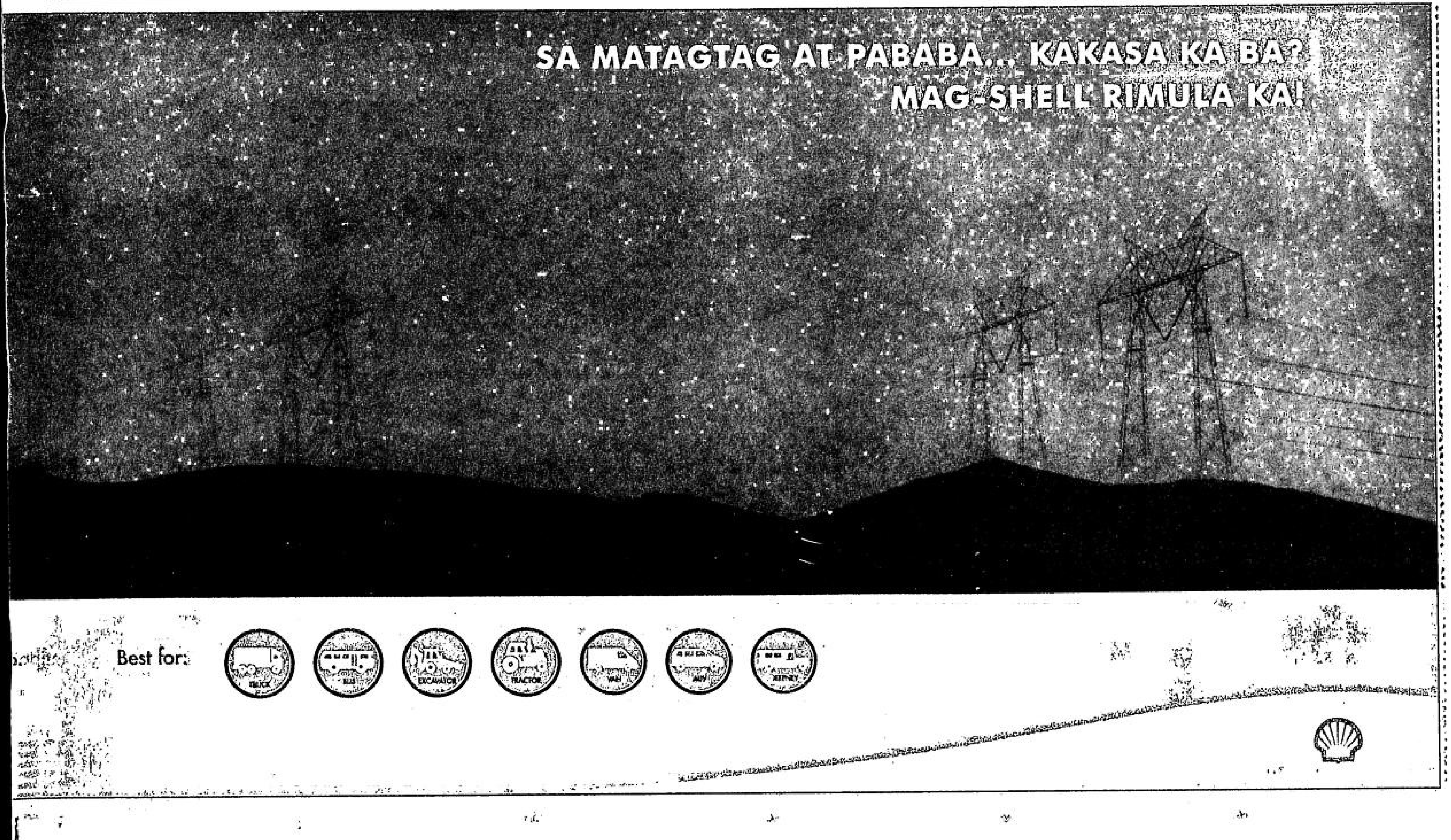

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Unburied bodies at crematory could exceed 200

ATLANTA, Georgia—Georgia authorities said Monday they had found 139 bodies on the grounds of a crematory where bodies brought from funeral homes to be cremated were dumped in the woods or stuffed in steel vaults.

Officials estimate the final count could exceed 200, anticipating they could even find 15 to 20-year-old remains.

"We have no way of even guessing (how many bodies)," said Kris Sperry, the state's chief medical examiner, noting that four steel vaults filled with human remains were opened Monday. "It's changing, growing, expanding."

Buzz Weiss of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency said divers were also to search a lake on the property.

Weiss said that 27 of the remains had already been identified.

Brent Marsh, 28, the son of the owner of the Tri-State Crematorium, has been arrested and charged with 16 felony counts of theft by deception.

Marsh was arrested Saturday on five counts, but freed on $25,000 bond. He was rearrested Sunday and charged with 11 additional counts.

Buzz Franklin, the district attorney for Walker County, said Marsh could face additional charges, each of which carrying a possible 15-year sentence.

Marsh was scheduled to appear before a judge Monday afternoon, but appeared without an attorney, delaying the hearing.

Marsh has told investigators the bodies were not cremated because the crematorium was not working.

Funeral homes in northwest Georgia and Tennessee charged families around $1,500 to have their loved ones' remains cremated instead of buried.

The bodies would be picked up from the funeral homes by Marsh, who later returned with boxes containing what he said were the ashes of the deceased. But an investigation into the contents of some of those boxes revealed their contents to be sawdust and cement powder.

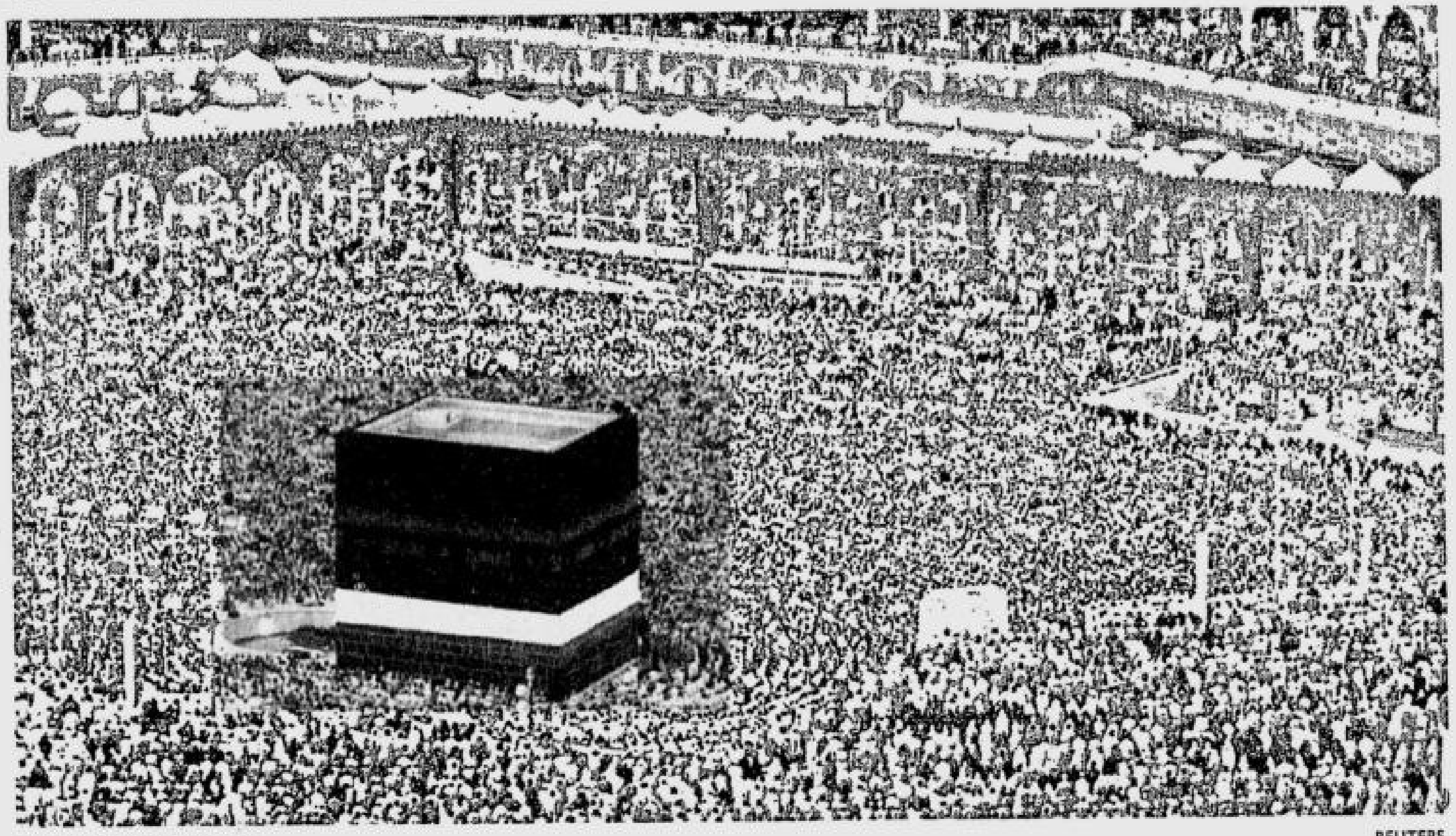
"There will be a number of bodies that will never be identified," Sperry said.

Walker County Sheriff Steve Wilson told the Chattanooga Times Free Press Monday that Marsh had received numerous death threats.

Gary McConnell, director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, said that he had known the Marsh family, "and if you had asked me last week, I would have told you they were an outstanding family."

"Obviously, my opinion has changed," he said.

As many as 400 federal, state, and county officials are working to uncover remains on the site, proclaimed a state of emergency by Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes, that was discovered by a man as he walked his dog through the woods on Friday. *AFP*



REUTERS

HAJ PILGRIMAGE

Surrounding the Kaaba, Muslims from all over the world gather for their evening prayer inside Haram, in the holy city of Mecca, Feb. 18 ahead of the annual haj pilgrimage season which climaxes on Thursday. The Kaaba shrine is a symbol of unity for Muslims. Prayers are oriented in the direction of the Kaaba, a cube-shaped stone building Muslims believe was originally built by Abraham and his son Ishmael.

Child-drowning mother not insane, say prosecutors

HOUSTON—Andrea Yates, a troubled Texas mother who drowned her five children in the family bathtub last summer was sick, but sane enough to know that she had done wrong, prosecutors said on Monday in opening statements of a murder trial that could bring her the death penalty.

Yates' lawyer, George Parnham, countered that the 37-year-old former nurse was suffering from postpartum depression so severe that she thought killing her children was the right thing to do.

"Postpartum depression with psychotic features is the cruelest form of mental illness," he told a packed courtroom. "It takes the very nature and essence of motherhood—to love, nurture and protect—and changes the reality."

Yates, 37, has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to two counts of capital murder in a case that women's rights groups and many mental health experts have denounced because they say she needs treatment, not punishment.

The bespectacled Yates, her long hair hanging down on a gray dress, showed little emotion during the opening statements. When she stood to make her not guilty plea, she spoke in a barely audible voice.

On June 20 of last year, she called police to her suburban Houston home to tell them she had killed her children.

Police found them all drowned, the oldest Noah, 7, still floating face down in the bathtub where they died. The other four, John, 5, Paul, 3, Luke, 2, and Mary, six months, were wrapped in a sheet on the bed, with Mary's head cradled on John's arm, prosecutor Joe Owmby told the jury.

YATES

They had bruises on their heads and legs from where they had struggled to escape their mother, Owmby said.

"She said she killed them because they weren't developing correctly and she was a bad mother," he said. "She told (police) she had thought about killing them for two years. She told them they struggled for a couple of minutes."

Owmby said there was no question that Yates suffered from postpartum depression that began after the birth of her fourth child and flared up again after the youngest, Mary, was born.

But he said she was sane enough to call police after the crime and to tell investigators she needed to be punished.

"You will also hear evidence that she knew it was an illegal thing, that it was a sin, that it was wrong," Owmby said.

"We don't have to defend the mental health system of the United States of America," he said. "We don't have to prove that postpartum depression is a problem. We know it's a problem." *Reuters*

Thailand's 'Weakest Link' show rebuked

BANGKOK—Thai authorities Tuesday called for changes to the local version of the brutal game show "The Weakest Link," saying it was too aggressive and set a bad example for the nation's youth.

"Kamchad Jud Orn" has sparked a storm of criticism since its launch earlier this month, accused by many of being out of place in peaceful Thai society, which avoids confrontation and aggression.

Even Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said he felt "stressed out" after watching the show, where hapless contestants are belittled and then dismissed with the words: "You are the weakest link. Goodbye."

The Thai National Youth Bureau sent a letter expressing its concerns to the private television station which airs the program, and asked the station's director to improve the show.

"The National Youth Bureau is concerned about the repercussions of the program 'The Weakest Link' for Thailand's youth," it said.

"The show is promoting fierce competition and selfishness among participants. This contravenes Thai generosity."

The bureau said it wanted Channel Three to broadcast more creative and positive programs to set a good example for youngsters.

"The prime minister has expressed his concern about the flow of western culture which could affect Thai lifestyle," it added.

The quiz show, which revels in humiliating contestants, is presented here by Krittaka Kongsompong, a 36-year-old academic and daughter-in-law of a coup-era general.

Internet bulletin boards and newspaper letters pages unleashed a barrage of criticism after its debut, when a teacher voted off the show wept and begged her pupils not to think she was stupid. *AFP*

Gang in biggest diamond heist jailed

LONDON—Four men were handed long jail terms on Monday after being found guilty of plotting what British police said would have been the biggest heist in history.

In a plot worthy of James Bond, they attempted to steal diamonds worth $290 million from London's Millennium Dome, escape along the River Thames in a speedboat and smuggle them out of the country into the hands of the Russian mafia.

Among the stones they hoped to steal was the Millennium Star, at 777 carats one of the world's largest gems.

The robbers may have been inspired by the Bond film "The World is Not Enough," which featured a speedboat chase to the Dome—showpiece of Britain's year 2000 celebrations—in the opening sequence.

But the audacious plan was foiled by the Flying Squad rapid reaction police force, who had switched the real diamonds for fakes and were lying in wait for the robbers.

"Had it not been for the intervention of the police on the day in question they would have committed the largest robbery ever to take place anywhere in the world and in doing so ... put lives in severe danger," said Detective Inspector John Shatford.

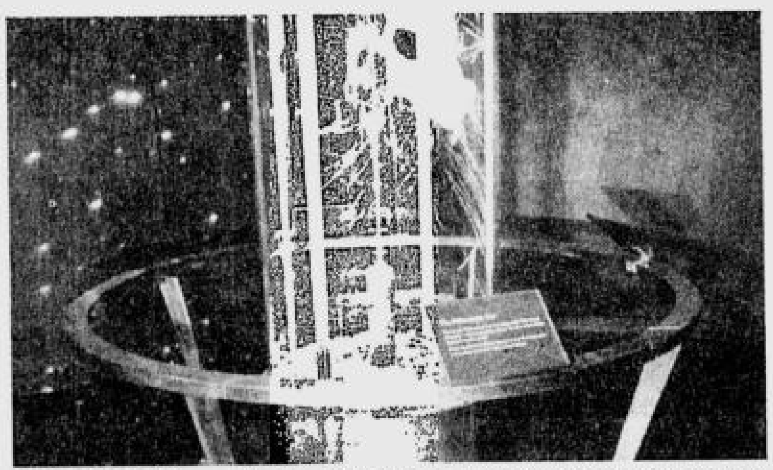
"These are top-tier professional criminals who should go away for a long time," he told reporters outside the Old Bailey criminal court in central London.

William Cockram, from London, and Raymond Betson, of no fixed address, were both jailed for 18 years for conspiracy to rob. Aldo Ciarrocchi, from London, and Robert Adams, of no fixed address, were jailed for 15 years on the same charge.

A fifth man, Kevin Meredith, a boat skipper from Brighton, was found guilty of the lesser charge of conspiracy to steal the 12 diamonds in the Dome. He was sentenced to five years in jail.

All five men had denied conspiracy to rob. All bar Meredith admitted conspiracy to steal, which has a maximum seven-year sentence.

The gang used a road digger to smash through the perimeter fence of the giant Dome attraction and attacked the display case with sledgehammers and a nail gun. *Reuters*



THE DISPLAY case for the Millennium Star diamond shattered by a nail gun during an attempted £200-million diamond heist at London's Millennium Dome.

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US still weighing options on Iraq

WASHINGTON—The United States has yet to decide how to handle Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whose government is part of the "axis of evil" denounced last month by President George W. Bush, The Washington Post reported Tuesday.

"There's a lot of work being done on this. This is getting a lot of focused attention," an unnamed senior administration official told the daily.

"This is clearly an issue that is being seen differently than it was before Sept. 11. But to the best of my knowledge, no decision has been made and no timetable has been set," he added, referring to the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Senior officials including national security director Condoleezza Rice have directed their staff in recent weeks to develop options for confronting Hussein, officials told the daily.

Those options include an invasion of Iraq, support for local insurgency, backing for a coup and possible combinations of these alternatives.

However, the officials added, some departments have not put together working groups to study the alternatives. *AFP*

W. House modifies kidnap policy

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has adopted a new policy that would mandate federal review of every overseas kidnapping of an American to determine whether US intervention is warranted, the New York Times reported Monday.

The new policy marks a significant about-face in American policy on kidnappings of US nationals, and comes as US officials cooperate with Pakistan in the search for Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped in Karachi while researching a story on Islamic militants.

Under the new policy, Washington will examine every case in which an American is taken hostage in another country to assess the need for US intervention. In the past, Washington sometimes declined to review cases that did not involve American officials or members of the armed forces.

Officials said the policy encompasses a wide range of options to save hostages, from providing advice on negotiations to American-led commando raids, but said it does not require the government to become directly involved in every kidnapping.

Officials said the policy dropped a longstanding prohibition of private companies paying ransom, saying that while Washington continues to discourage such payments some companies and families might feel that they have no alternative. *AFP*

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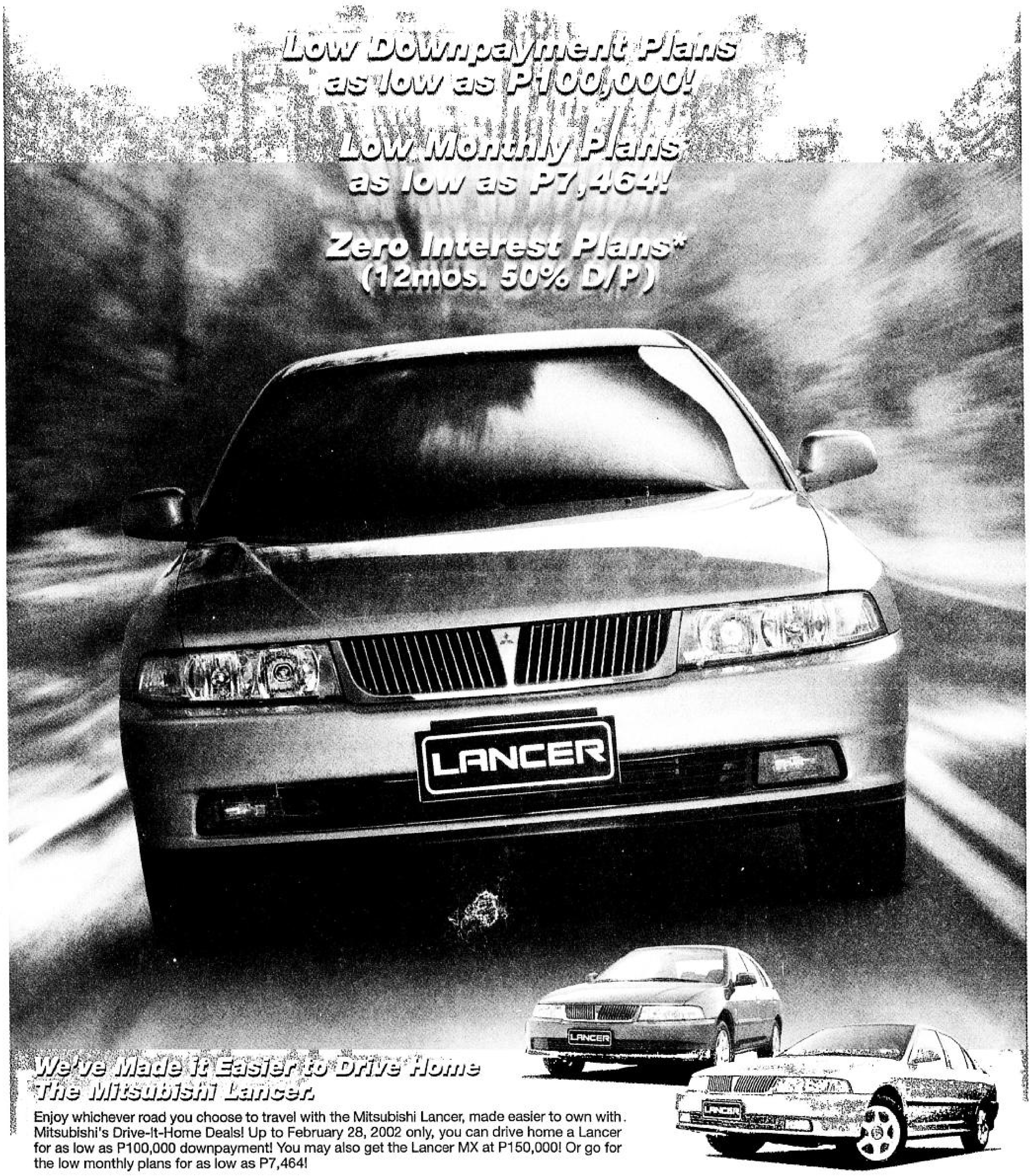
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GLS M/T	680,000		49,462	34,148	27,168	19,424	15,737	13,775
GLS A/T	710,000		51,644	35,654	28,367	20,281	16,431	14,383

P150,000 D/P Plans

Model	ESP	20% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
MX	790,000	150,000	57,463	39,671	31,563	22,566	18,282	16,004

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

Low Monthly Plans / Zero Interest Plans* (12mos. 50% DP)

Model	ESP	50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
GLX M/T	620,000	310,000	*25,833	18,483	14,720	10,524	8,526	7,464
GLS M/T	680,000	340,000	30,139	20,807	16,563	11,841	9,594	8,398
GLS A/T	710,000	355,000	31,468	21,725	17,293	12,364	10,017	8,768
MX	790,000	395,000	35,014	24,173	19,242	13,757	11,145	9,756

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy. source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI32° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 17°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/20/02

ROUNDUP

6 hurt in grenade blast

DAVAO CITY—Six persons were hurt when a former soldier allegedly lobbed a grenade over a sidewalk in Tagum City on Saturday night. Chief Insp. Roberto Yugo, Tagum police chief, said the victims were having a drinking spree at a rolling store on Rizal and Bonifacio Streets when the grenade was thrown at them. Yugo said they immediately arrested the suspect, Renato Alfornon, who was reportedly identified by witnesses.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPA leader captured

LUPON, Davao Oriental—The military captured a ranking officer of the communist New People's Army in the province in a raid in Sitio Kulombongan, Barangay Kokornon here on Saturday. Ruben Tanoy, 34, leader of the NPA's Front Committee 18, was arrested along with his companion, Rico Baliguat, 30. Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said the two were behind the killing of two policemen and several militiamen in San Isidro town last year.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 AFP informers killed

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels on Saturday killed two military informers in Boston town in Davao Oriental. The victims were identified as Nicasio Lino and Jovel Baguiohanon, both of Sitio Manat, Barangay Sibahay. The victims were killed in their house by an undetermined number of New People's Army rebels led by a certain Zaldy Latiban.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Drug suspects arrested

GUMACA, Quezon—Acting on a tip by informants, police on Saturday arrested two suspected couriers of a Manila-based drug syndicate while delivering at least 15 grams of shabu worth about P30,000. A police report identified the suspects as Edna and Christine Butito, both natives of Mindanao and residents of Quezon City. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sustainable agri meet

THE NATIONAL Secretariat of Social Action, Justice and Peace (Nassa) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines will hold a national consultation on sustainable agriculture today until Wednesday in Iloilo City. Aimed at forming a national coalition of sustainable agriculture practitioners in the country, the consultation will be participated in by 36 Nassa partners across the country. Issues affecting the promotion of sustainable agriculture, like genetic engineering, patenting and globalization, will be tackled.

Seven Lakes convention

SOME 100 American and Canadian citizens who are former residents of San Pablo City are holding their Third International Convention in San Pablo City until Sunday. The group, called the Seven Lakes International, is a federation of various San Pablo associations in the United States and Canada. Members will discuss opportunities for community service and ways to participate in development efforts in their former hometown.

K of C anniversary

THE KNIGHTS of Columbus in Lopez, Quezon (Council No. 4492) will hold its 44th founding anniversary on Feb. 23, according to Grand Knight Ciriaco Escleto Jr. Lined up are a thanksgiving Mass at 6 a.m., a fraternal breakfast with the widows of members as guests, a visit to the Lopez municipal jail, and oratorical, declamation and poetry contests. The event will culminate in the Grand Knights Cultural Night and Anniversary Ball at the town plaza at 8 p.m. with Rep. Georgilu Yumul-Hermida as guest speaker.

3 killed in collision

HERMOSA, Bataan—Three people were killed after a jeepney collided with a car in Barangay Culis here on Sunday. Police identified the fatalities as Wilfredo Mirasol, the driver of the car; and Florencio Reyes and Myrna Reyes, both passengers of the jeepney. Police said the jeepney, which was carrying bamboo poles, was travelling north when the southbound car swerved to its lane and hit it. The jeepney driver, Atanacio Reyes, was hurt and brought to the Payumo Emergency Hospital in Dinalupihan town.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Chavit: Erap will not return

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson is objecting to the request of deposed President Joseph Estrada to have his arthritic knees treated in the United States because, he said, the former president will never return.

"Erap is acting again so he (can) go to the United States. But he will never return," Singson told the INQUIRER. "He will use all his resources to permanently stay in the US."

The majority of the senators and congressmen has endorsed separate resolutions urging the government to allow Estrada to go to the United States for a knee surgery.

The Sandiganbayan has set a separate hearing on the issue.

Singson claimed that Estrada, his former friend and drinking buddy, wanted to escape from the cases he is facing.

"With the overwhelming evidence against Erap, he knew that he will be convicted that is why he wanted to go to the US in the guise of undergoing a knee surgery," Singson said.

He called Estrada's request for treatment abroad as a "flimsy excuse" to escape conviction.

Majority of congressmen belonging to the House's Northern Luzon bloc, led by Singson's estranged cousin, Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, have signed the resolution because of "humanitarian reason."

Eric Singson said the country's extradition treaty with the US guarantees that Estrada will return to the country.

"We have strong ties with the United States, we expect that the former president's trip will be closely monitored and we have the extradition treaty as a recourse," he said.

In San Pablo City in Laguna, church leaders and militant groups accused top government officials, including the Senate and the House of Representatives, of grand conspiracy and "political opportunism" in their proposal to allow ousted Estrada to undergo medical treatment in the US.

Fr. Jose Dizon, a leader of the church group Kairos and the Workers Assistance Group in Cavite, said what the legislators did was "political opportunism of its worst kind, especially and particularly with the pro-impeachment legislators."

The militant leaders, on the other hand, saw this development in the Estrada plunder case as the present administration's design to compromise with Estrada. Southern Tagalog human rights leader Eden Marcellana said the legislators were helping Estrada "escape from the heinous cases he is facing."

"We have specialized and brilliant doctors in the country. Have him (Estrada) treated here," Abesamis said.

Msgr. Jerry Bitoon, rector of a college seminary, said Estrada's plan was another "dubious" move to evade justice.

"His knee surgery can easily be done here. It's becoming very clear that they are simply buying time," Bitoon added.

With a report from Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MEMBERS of the mime group "Tropang Paltok" join the three-kilometer "Condom Run" in Baguio City.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Groups mount 'condom run' in Baguio City

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Early morning churchgoers coming from the Baguio Cathedral on Sunday were met by runners distributing condoms.

A street troupe trailing the runners were dressed as Baguio's "men in the barrel" with their oversized male organs sheathed in condom.

Kiawis, a city-based media group campaigning for reproductive health, staged the first "condom run" in the country to drum up support for safe sex.

Pigeon Lobien, Kiawis media coordinator, said Baguio has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies in the country. He also said the prevalence rate of sexually transmitted infections in the city has been the highest in the country since 1995.

The "condom run" is the city's answer to the World Condom Day celebrations held every Feb. 9. Groups in Ermita District in Manila held a "Love Parade" two weeks ago to celebrate the day.

Lobien said figures from the social hygiene clinic of the city health department showed that 12,825 people, mostly registered female sex workers, visited the clinic from January to October last year.

Of this number, 17.89 percent (2,294) were found infected with one of the 12 sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Kiawis, with the cooperation of the Philippine NGOs for Population, Health and Welfare; condom maker DKT Enterprises; and the Baguio Country Club held the "Condom Fun Run."

Members of the "Tropang Paltok," a mime group, acted as drumbeaters, with white-painted dancers and "men in a barrel" who demonstrated condom use.

The BHD is among those aggressively campaigning for the compulsory condom use policy among entertainment bars here.

But even Cordillera couples are gradually using condoms.

According to the 2000 Family Planning Survey of the National Statistics Office, the Cordillera has the highest percentage of condom users among the country's 15 regions.

With 52,969 wives and common-law wives as respondents, the survey showed that 4.3 percent of Cordillera couples use condoms regularly.

The national rate for condom use is 1.3 percent. The second highest condom users are from Central Visayas, comprising 2.7 percent.

The Department of Health said condom use was also attributed to the couples' need for family planning.

Rebels involved in killing of cops in C. Luzon hunted

By Tonette Orejas

*PDI Central Luzon Desk*CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police officials on Tuesday ordered an intensified hunt on members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan on the heels of the group's "killing spree" that victimized policemen in Pampanga and Zambales this month.

In separate statements, the RHB, the armed wing of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines, had claimed responsibility for the killing of SPO3 Apolonio Capulong in Mexico, Pampanga, on Feb. 13 and SPO2 Aquilino Manuel in Subic, Zambales, on Feb. 18.

The RHB also admitted to killing an Army soldier and wounded two policemen in Angeles City last year.

According to the statements, Capulong and Manuel were both "protectors" of illegal drug syndicates in their areas.

"Ka Milan," who claimed to be the spokesperson of the RHB South Zambales guerrilla front, said Manuel, 47, was also "punished" for harming civilians, instigating illegal arrests and leading demolitions of houses of fisherfolk families at Barangay Cawag in Subic.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police chief, said this "execution spree" by the RHB was "certainly taboo."

"We have our own system of determining and punishing scalawags in the organization. Why should they take justice in their own hands? This is not the right direction," he told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

Berroya did not say if the accusations against Capulong and Manuel were true.

But the RHB, according to Berroya, was "only trying to get even" with the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army that had "neutralized" more than 300 rebels in the joint counter-insurgency campaign since last year.

Parojinog family blames political foes for killing

By Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

OZAMIZ CITY—Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. dismissed speculations that the killing of his younger brother Renato, a provincial board member, was related to the possible reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case.

"In the first place, the victims of the alleged rubout were not members of Kuratong Baleleng. And General Lacson knows that," Mayor Parojinog said.

"And why would my brother have something to do with its reopening? He had no ax to grind against Lacson. In fact, they were party mates in the last elections," he added.

The government has asked the Supreme Court to reopen the case, which implicated Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the alleged summary execution of 11 suspected members of the kidnap and robbery gang in 1995.

Lacson, a former police general who was with the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission headed by then Vice President Joseph Estrada, has denied involvement in the alleged rub-out.

He has said he saw "an ugly hand" behind an attempt to link him to the killing of Renato, a former leader of the Kuratong Baleleng, in Manila last week.

Mayor Parojinog blamed politics for the death of his brother.

Threat

"He had become a threat to their political plans," the mayor said, without identifying who he was referring to.

He said his brother had been receiving death threats since rejoining politics last year when he ran for a seat in the provincial board representing the second district.

"There are politicians who cannot accept the fact of our entering into politics and winning elective posts," Mayor Parojinog stressed.

ACKNOWLEDGED Kuratong Baleleng leader Renato Parojinog (left) listens as his brother, Ozamiz Mayor Reynaldo, chats with President Macapagal-Arroyo during an official dinner at Malacañang last year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIGUEL OCHATE, OZAMIZ CITY GOVERNMENT

He related that the most recent threat to his brother's life was a failed ambush in August last year while they were setting off for Ozamiz City from Sominot town in Zamboanga del Sur where his wife is serving as mayor.

"In all these threats, we saw shades of politics," he said.

He related that Renato had told him the name of the person behind the failed ambush. He described the plotter as "once connected to the Left movement who now harbors a reformist perspective and is now an asset of a military intelligence agent operating in Misamis Occidental."

The person has also become a mercenary and is an employee of a politician, Parojinog said.

Own probe

"In the past, they have floated the idea of us plotting against their lives. But I dare say, we are not that kind of politician; we are not *trapos* (traditional politicians)."

The Parojinog family on Saturday vowed to conduct its own investigation into the killing, with the help of friends and relatives in Manila.

According to Mayor Parojinog, the killers "are surely backed by moneyed individuals who could be holding influential positions in government."

"The mere fact that they were able to follow him until they chanced upon him entails logistics; hence, money," the mayor explained.

A former soldier who had worked for Renato's political campaigns and occasionally acted as his security escort said they had received reports that Renato was followed even while he was in Cebu.

The victim left here for Cebu on Feb. 12 and flew to Manila after an overnight stay there.

Manila trip

A colleague at the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) said Renato received a call from Sen. Robert Barbers, who hails from Surigao, urging him to come to Manila.

Mayor Parojinog said his brother was scheduled to meet with several national leaders and raise funds for his projects in the province as part of his itinerary in Metro Manila.

Mayor Parojinog said one of the projects that his slain brother was following up involved a water supply system.

The Parojinog family has called for sobriety among his followers and urged them to let justice and the law takes its course.

On Saturday, Mayor Parojinog spoke over a local radio station and assured residents that he was doing everything to prevent adverse reactions from supporters of his brother.

He said the result of the formal investigation should be respected.

Political life

Renato first entered politics in 1998 when he ran for a congressional seat representing the province's second district under then presidential candidate Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

He lost to Hilarion Ramiro Jr., who was waging a political comeback after a brief stint as health secretary.

After his failed bid, Renato became active with the Fraternal Order of Eagles, serving as president of its chapter here.

Through his group, he launched several free medical and dental outreach programs using his own funds. He was the group's national vice president before he was killed.

Renato rejoined politics last year when he ran for a seat in the provincial board. He topped the race for board member in the second district.

Because of his good showing, colleagues in the NPC were said to be urging him to consider seeking the gubernatorial, vice gubernatorial or congressional post.

INQUIRER*Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

CLARK AIR BASE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
USE PARKING LIGHTS WHEN APPROACHING THE GATE
STOP

FROM a US military air base more than a decade ago, Clark has become a giant investment haven. FILE PHOTO

Celebrating 100 years of 'Little America'

EXPECT American tourists to start arriving at the Clark Special Economic Zone beginning next month for the centennial of the founding of the former US air base.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon will sound off the invitation when he opens on Feb. 22 the year-long celebrations for the Clark Air Base centennial.

Ramona Ty, chair of the North Philippines Tourism Council, said the tourism blitz for Clark's centennial is six months ahead of the official anniversary date because it is "a big event for Clark's glorious past and Clark's grand future."

"Little America," as Clark was then known to homesick US servicemen, was established on Sept. 1, 1903 when then US President Theodore Roosevelt issued an executive order declaring 3,105.94 hectares in Pampanga and Tarlac as military reservations.

From a horse grazing ground named after Col. John Stotsenburg, commander of the 1st Nebraska Volunteer Regiment, the US military eventually developed and expanded the area into an airfield.

Clark Air Base was named after Maj. Harold Clark, one of the pioneer aviators of the US Air Force who grew up in Manila.

The biggest in the Asia-Pacific, the base played a crucial defense role during World War II and the Cold War.

Loved by many locals for the economic prosperity it stirred, the base was also hated by Filipino nationalists who called it a mockery of Philippine independence.

Pampanga and the national government lost Clark as one of the biggest economic resources in terms of employment and "rentals" when the Philippine Senate rejected the extension of 1947 Philippines-US Military Bases Agreement on Sept. 16, 1991.

Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in June 1991 damaged Clark and the US subsequently turned over the base to the Philippine government in November 1991, following the rejection of the 1947 MBA.

Twin disaster

It was a twin disaster never before seen in Philippine history, said Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president.

Angeles said Clark has remained one of the country's biggest resources for national and regional development. The centennial celebrations, he said, are "apt to show to the world the resiliency of the Filipinos to bounce back from a twin disaster."

Ty said the Americans also left many historical sites that put Clark as a major ecotourism and cultural destination.

In the six months to the centennial run-up, CDC and the NPTC will work closely as the Clark Centennial Committee. The group will lead the rehabilitation of the ammo dump, barn houses, stable farm, weather observatory, cemetery, First Kamikaze airfield and prewar artillery at the former air base.

The council's main goal is to attract former US servicemen and their families, and American and local tourists to visit Clark. About 50,000 servicemen were stationed in Clark during its heydays.

Ty said that because Clark is the site of the country's future international airport, "it is about time to promote the tourism aspect to attract more people to visit and invest in the former military installation."

Tonette Orejas

Clark in upbeat mood

By Tonette Orejas
Clark Special Economic Zone

IN CLARK, it really mattered who the President is. Business figures were brighter during the first 12 months of Presi dent Macapagal-Arroyo's term than during the administrations of her two predecessors, reports from the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) showed.

While Clark under Ms Macapagal's administration may have put in only 75 new projects, these poured in P46.27 billion in committed investments or 51.45 percent of the P89.95-billion committed investments since 1992, the CDC said.

"Unprecedented" was how Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president and chief executive officer, called Clark's new record.

Former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada put in a combined total of 438 projects worth 48.55 percent of the generated investments, the reports showed.

Ms Macapagal also helped Clark overcome the doldrums during the short-lived Estrada administration, under which the zone lured only P5.49 billion in investments.

"She is our chief saleswoman," Angeles said of the President. He said it was not her being a Kapampangan and Clark's location in her home province of Pampanga that revved up the optimism.

"It's her economic management that puts premium on investors' interests (that mattered)," Angeles told the INQUIRER.

In fact, Angeles noted, "Clark's big ticket projects" came in during the first year of the Macapagal administration.

These include the Atlanta-based United Parcel Services, the British-owned Rolls Royce Engine Service LTDA Inc., Lockheed Martin/Asian Aerospace, Robert Wallace PTY Ltd., the Japanese-owned call center Red Factory Interactive Inc. and Cebu Pacific Airlines.

There was also a unique change this year. Houses—and there were many that the United States' 13th Air Force left after the closure of Clark Air Base in 1991—were turned into revenue earners.

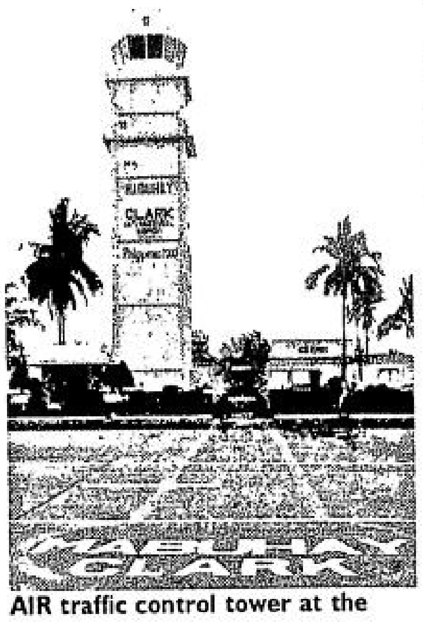
Housing projects, limited to just three in 1996, reached 18 in 2001. These drew investments of at least P1.743 billion. Fifteen projects were "residential accommodation agreements" for Clark-based investors in search of secured homes to live in. The rental rates are, however, high, ranging from P40,000 to P70,000 monthly.

In all, CDC reports showed that Clark hosts 311 companies. At least 117 of these firms are into industrial projects. Four are into agro-industrial, 58 in commercial projects, 17 in information technology, 58 in services, 18 in aviation, eight in tourism estate, 18 in housing, and 13 in utility projects.

Investors

At 203, local companies comprised the bulk of Clark investors. US and Japanese companies were the leading foreign investors at the zone as of December 2001.

There were few disputes between the investors and the CDC last year. That was because the CDC management was "more business-oriented," said Victor Santos, president of the Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila). Members of Cila covered 85 percent of Clark's 75,739 workers as of November 2001.



AIR traffic control tower at the Clark International Airport. FILE PHOTO

"We feel we are partners, not subject. We don't feel the landowners-tenant relationship anymore," said Carmen McTavish, Cila chair, who, together with businesswoman Elena Lim, founded the association in 1996. It was formed over what McTavish called the CDC's arbitrary increase in water rates.

The Cila board is composed of Filipino, American, Japanese, Australian, Chinese and Korean business leaders.

Angeles used his 40 years of management expertise from the academe, Santos said, adding that this was the reason Cila was "able to bring up any issue directly to the CDC."

The concerns of the association are in the areas of labor costs, security, gross income earned in lieu of taxes, utilities and infrastructures.

So far, water rates are cheap at P18.05 per cubic meter. The cost of electricity, provided by Clark Electric, is lower by 18 centavos per kilowatt-hour. The overseas telephone rate of ClarkCom, the unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. in Clark, is 36 US cents per minute.

According to Lito Mercado, Cila vice chair and ClarkCom manager, the CDC has also assisted distressed companies by restructuring their unpaid leases to enable them to survive the economic crisis.

For transparency, Cila for the first time joined the CDC's pre-qualification, bidding and awards committee last year.

Cila has gained the credibility of being a sort of a watchdog that UPS, before finally setting in at Clark, sought the association's assessment on how it was to do business at the zone.

"We told the UPS people what we've honestly been through and what continues to make us stay in Clark," McTavish said.

Cila gave the CDC and the President a high salute when it lured UPS.

"To us who have been around since the base was converted, we believe that the entry of UPS would pave the way for other investors. It will be like a magnet," said Mercado.

Cila's expectations of the CDC this year are high, which McTavish aired: "Maintain its professional management, maintain the growth momentum, combine airport development with tourism and do with what is available."

She said the CDC needed not wait for big infrastructure projects to come before it gets the airport going full-blast.

Santos also expressed the desire to see one key result: "Make the zone more investor friendly so it could be able to compete with other countries." He said this would be achieved through reliable utilities, cheaper labor costs and lower taxes.

Communities, labor

Clark did stir numerous employment opportunities, especially in Pampanga and Tarlac. With almost 74,000 jobs, it, in fact, surpassed the 40,000-mark during the heydays of the US military.

Last year, however, was not rosy on the labor front.

While Clark hired 3,714 new workers, several companies laid off a total of 3,690 employees. Militant labor groups have protested the unfair labor practices and illegal retrenchments.

In dispute arbitration proceedings before the Department of Labor and Employment, labor unions rued that investors always won the cases no matter how grossly the labor code is violated.

Shares of towns and cities from fees and dues collected at the zone have trickled down slowly.

A CDC source said local government units were being made to suffer from the national government's policy of pooling state income without giving it to where it is due.

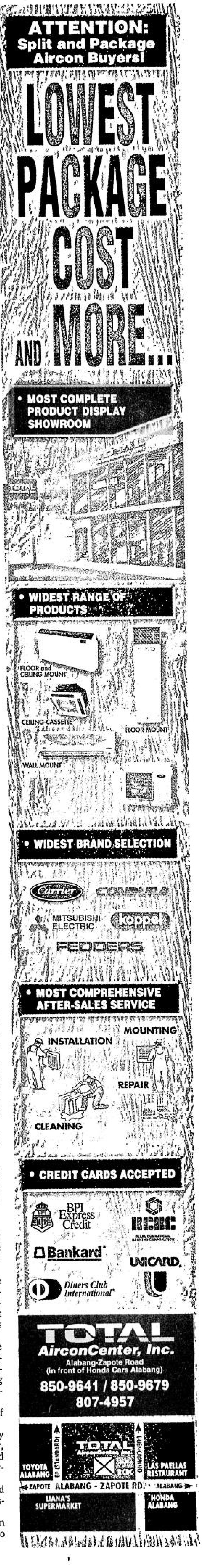
Thrusts

The problems in Clark, according to Angeles, will be dealt with in due time. The thrusts, however, remained focus on five key objectives:

- Completion of the merger of the CDC and the Clark International Airport Corp. The streamlining is expected to save the government of at least P60 million in operations yearly.
- Full implementation of the "aerotropolis" or airport-driven urban development plan where agriculture, ecotourism, manufacturing and industries are steadfastly promoted.
- Complementation of resources of Subic and Clark.
- Improvement of utilities by promoting sole ventures in power, water, telecommunications and environmental management services.

Angeles said good governance had to remain in place to be able to sustain investors' confidence.

"So many good things will happen here. We're winning them over to Clark," he said.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'Real face of the enemy'

From page A1

tion Board for 13 years, if the scenes could be shown under MTRCB rules.

"I was informed by my wife that the board does not tolerate and allow the showing of too much violence in the movies but it did not have authority or jurisdiction over newscasts," the senator said.

Tasteless

The anti-Balikatan coalition PeaceCamp nevertheless urged the MTRCB to look into what it called the "tasteless" public showing of the footage.

Fr. Robert Reyes, PeaceCamp co-chair, said it was immoral to show the video on national television.

"Any kind of violence is pornographic. This video deserves a triple X rating and the MTRCB should create a stir over this, just as it does with movies depicting sex," Reyes said at a press conference.

He added that Malacañang's move was "an insult to the intelligence of the Filipinos," who, he said, were totally aware of the brutalities perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf.

Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said the showing of the footage "is clearly to further generate hatred against the Abu Sayyaf and arouse public support for the joint RP-US Balikatan 02-1 exercises."

"If the intention is to increase public support for the Balikatan, this has become unnecessary because the overwhelming public support is already there," he said.

For anti-Balikatan groups

Asked why it was being shown despite the overwhelming public support for Balikatan, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the military spokesperson, said: "We hope that with its public showing, those groups opposed will be convinced that their opposition is wrong."

Adan said the footage was "intended for those misleading our people by deviating from the real issue of Balikatan, which is a mutual effort to fight terrorism."

He said those opposed to Balikatan were raising issues "far from the real intention" of the military training exercise.

The "real nature of the problem" is terrorism affecting the economy and causing suffering to the people, according to Adan.

The footage, which the military seized from the Abu Sayyaf, was supposedly taken on Jan. 8-9, 1995 after a clash between military and Abu Sayyaf bandits in Barangay Capayawan, Isabela, Basilan.

Those beheaded were members of the 44th Infantry Battalion who were wounded and captured in the clash that claimed the lives of nine soldiers and two civilian volunteers.

It was taken in 1995, eight months after Abu Sayyaf bandits and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels and Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas attacked Ipil town in Zamboanga del Sur. At least 53 civilians were killed in the attack.

Trademark

Beheading captives is a "terror trademark" of the Abu Sayyaf.

Among their recent victims were Californian Guillermo Sobero and 14 Filipino mostly Christian farmers seized in a kidnapping spree last year. Sobero's decapitated head was found in a shallow grave in a Basilan jungle.

In 1994, only a few years after it was founded by an Afghan-trained firebrand, Abdurajak Janjalani, the group shot dead 15 civilian hostages in Basilan and beheaded several of them. The bandits also decapitated two schoolteachers who were among a group of teachers and students they seized in April 2000.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Malacañang should have first edited the video footage before releasing it to media.

"The release of the video has only added to the culture of violence and that is not right," Pangilinan said.

GMA-7's "Saksi" and "Frontpage" aired the footage on Monday evening. ABS-CBN showed the same footage in its late night news program "Headlines."

The tape was originally scheduled to be shown to the public yesterday afternoon in a press conference by the AFP in Camp Aguinaldo.

GMA-7, which has been in possession of the tape since last year, learned about the AFP press conference and decided to show the footage ahead of its competitors.

Capco said the original plan was to provide media outlets with copies of the tape and "allow media to decide for themselves whether to show it."

He said a poll conducted by GMA-7's "Unang Hirit" yesterday morning showed "overwhelming" support for the showing of the tape. "The survey was 10-1 in favor," he said.

At the PeaceCamp press conference, JV Bautista, head of the PeaceCamp legal team, said there was no need to make the beheadings graphic just to justify the entry of US troops into the country.

Omission

PeaceCamp co-chair Aurora Parong, for her part, observed that the government was busy intensifying its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf by "exposing" its brutality but remained silent on the cruelties done by the United States to the country.

"President Macapagal seems to have forgotten that not so long ago, her staunch ally was mistaking our Aeta brothers and sisters for wild boar and shooting at them," Parong said.

She also said that residents living near Subic and Clark bases had been afflicted with various diseases allegedly because of the toxic wastes left by US troops.

"We believe that these too should be shown to the public to remind everyone that these American troops are just as brutal as the Abu Sayyaf bandits," she said.

Experts who analyzed the footage said it was taken by a camera system used largely in Europe and the Middle East.

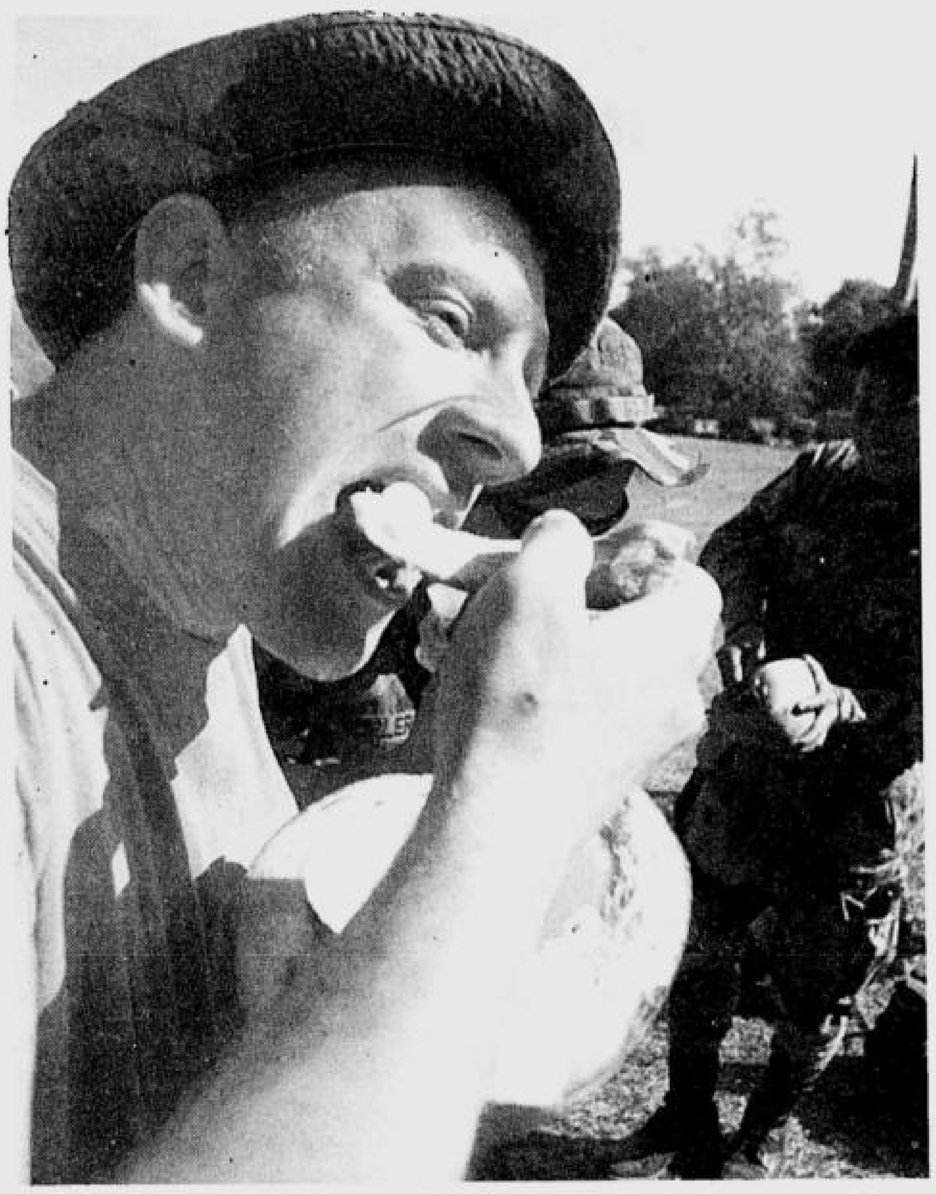
Adan said the same footage was being shown in Middle East countries.

The copies were apparently sent to those countries in an effort to raise funds for the Abu Sayyaf, according to Adan.

He said they were still studying whether to show the tapes to schoolchildren.

"Some of the scenes . . . may not be suitable for the students and for young minds without proper guidance. So this is intended for our thinking people," he said.

Adan said they were open to the idea of showing the video to American troops. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno and AFP***



LOOK ma, no spoons. Sgt. Gilbert Craig learns to eat young coconut meat using a piece of coconut husk as a spoon. VAL HANDUMON

New US ambassador . . .

From page A1

law enforcement, economic affairs, global campaign against terror is very good. It's not just military."

"We'd like to cooperate across the board," said Ricciardone, who was confirmed only last week after the US Senate was chided by the Department of State for delaying the troop deployment that was seen as crucial to the campaign against terrorism.

The ambassador said he was not worried about coming here despite the country's reputation for danger, saying he hoped to correct that perception and to sell the Philippines as a tourist haven and a good investment area.

The Philippines, a former US colony, had very close ties to the United States until the Philippine Senate voted in 1991 to close all US bases in this country, leading to a cooling of relations.

But relations became warmer after President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in January 2001. She became one of the first and most enthusiastic supporters of US President George W. Bush's anti-terror campaign in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Ms. Macapagal approved the deployment of the American soldiers in Mindanao, but stressed they would only advise local troops battling the Abu Sayyaf and not engage in actual combat.

Morale boosted

The presence of US troops in Basilan has boosted the morale of Filipino soldiers fighting the bandits who are holding captive an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

As mammoth American Chinook helicopters thunder above Basilan, the downdraft is already affecting the bandits, according to officials.

To a hostage, "it would give you hope," said a senior Filipino police official. But it would force the bandits "to be very careful because they know that the Americans have high-tech equipment that can track their location through their body heat."

The MH-47E helicopters, and older Bell UH-1H hand-me-downs, of the Philippine Air Force have ruled the skies over the forest-clad Basilan since last week as the Southeast Asian phase of the US-led global campaign against terror stepped into high gear.

Christian missionary Martin Burnham and wife Gracia would have noticed, the police official told AFP.

In the coming days US Special Forces squadrons in joint operations with Filipino troops would launch night air patrols to track down the Abu Sayyaf.

"I suspect that with the exercise coming, that would increase the desire of the (Abu Sayyaf) leadership to unburden themselves of these hostages and to go into hiding," US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Robert Fitts said.

Both Manila and Washington, however, are playing down hopes that the US presence would bring a swift end to the 9-month-old hostage crisis.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the two armies would train for six months even if the Burnhams were freed tomorrow, adding that a rescue would be a mere "bonus."

Fitts said the American soldiers "are not going there to try and engage in military operations to rescue the hostages."

Under the terms of conduct for the joint operations, US soldiers are only allowed to fire in self-defense,

Even so, officials said the Abu Sayyaf could not hope to take on the military power of the Americans, despite their hands-off role.

Sex determined

According to the Filipino police official, the Americans' air surveillance capability is such that they can determine the sex of a person hidden beneath the forest canopy.

Local television last month aired footage of the US hostage couple, both 42. Gaunt and weakened through lack of food and the harsh conditions of the tropical jungle, the husband showed how the bandits would chain him to a tree when they stopped to sleep.

The bandits have threatened to kill the hostages unless a $2-million ransom is paid. They beheaded 14 other captives last year, including Californian tourist Guillermo Sobero.

Abu Sayyaf ranks in Basilan have reportedly been whittled down to a few dozen from about 2,000 due to months of relentless military operations.

"This is a spent force," said Col. Alexander Aleo, an Army brigade commander in Basilan.

Aleo denounced attempts by certain people he would not name over attempts to launch ransom talks.

The faint possibility of a huge payoff "is what is keeping the core group from giving up the ghost," he said. ***AFP***

Gov't troops, Abus clash in Basilan; 2 soldiers wounded

From page A1

said the wounded men were already in stable condition "after they were treated by the US Forces doctors" at the Camp Navarro Hospital inside the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

But Detabali said the US troops "are not participating in the operation," adding that air strikes were continuing.

Aleo also said the seven American soldiers already in Maluso were not in danger and would not be allowed to join the fighting on Tinggolan island, which is the first military encounter since US troops arrived in Basilan.

"The American soldiers are training. They would not join the ongoing fighting," Aleo said.

A total of 51 US soldiers are already deployed in Basilan for the Balikatan 02-1 military exercises, but about 30 more will fly in today from Zamboanga City, military officials said.

American soldiers in Zamboanga were undisturbed by the fighting which highlighted the threat they might face in Basilan.

"I feel very safe. I feel very confident in the (Filipino) soldiers I'm working with. They're really good men. They're hardened soldiers," said S/Sgt. Dave Christiansen, 30, after undergoing "cultural sensitivity" training in Zamboanga.

"We're here to train and provide assistance to the Philippine Army and their fight against terrorism. That's the bottom line right there," said Sgt. Dan Debaere, 30.

Hostages rescued

The two farmers rescued were brothers Danny Kasim, 25, and Latip, 23, who were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf only on Sunday.

The Kasims were on their way to the coconut plantation they worked at when abducted by the bandits. The kidnappers demanded a P50,000 ransom, although another report placed the ransom demand at P100,000.

Another report said the brothers were singled out from a crowd of farmers at a coconut processing plant and accused of being military informants.

Danny Kasim's wife went to the police on Monday, before the deadline set by the gunmen to raise the ransom expired.

"But I ordered the 55th and 10th Infantry Battalions to conduct patrol and pursue the hostage takers. Fortunately last (Monday) night, the duo was rescued," Aleo said.

He said the military had located the Abu Sayyaf faction holding the Kasims, led by Mauran Ampul and Kalaw Jaljalis,. "The Abu Sayyaf bandits were forced to abandon their hostages when they sensed the arrival of reinforcement troops. They (bandits) escaped and avoided the troops," Aleo said.

The bandits abandoned the brothers in Sitio Maligue-Spillway in Barangay Matarling.

"The hostages were rescued by soldiers who pursued the rebels, the Abu Sayyaf apparently in confusion left the hostages . . . But troops were still pursuing the kidnappers," Aleo said.

Another Abu Sayyaf unit has been holding the US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap for the past nine months.

Big problems

In the Senate, a former Armed Forces chief of staff said the intensified campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and against renegade Moro forces loyal to jailed leader Nur Misuari could lead to the unification of these armed groups, resulting in "'uncontrollable problems."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon urged Malacañang to closely monitor the situation in Jolo where Misuari's forces were clustered, "as failure to do so could lead to an explosion of what is already a very tense situation."

"The tension in Jolo is caused by the difficulty in distinguishing the motivations of different armed groups, most of them illegally organized and armed but who have different reasons for being so," Biazon said in a statement.

He noted that "many concerns are being raised by sectoral and community leaders, including the multi-partisan political leaders in the province of Sulu."

"While the leaders are one in condemning the Abu Sayyaf and the need for government to eradicate this group, there are also claims that the current police actions mounted by the military and police seem indiscriminate and an over-reaction to such other groups which are unnecessarily brought into the fray," Biazon said.

In Zamboanga City, Sen. Edgardo Angara said that the "full-blown development and economic reconstruction of Mindanao should be the post-Balikatan agenda of the Macapagal administration."

"This is a region of poverty and terrorism. Yet, it is a region of awesome potential and opportunity and is capable of serving as the country's food basket," said Angara. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno, AFP, AP, Reuters***

Bush vows to project American might in Asia

From page A1

bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Bush, who has been deflecting criticism for branding Iraq, Iran and North Korea "an axis of evil," won loud applause for thanking Tokyo's strong support to the war on terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"Your response to the terrorist threat has demonstrated the strength of our alliance, and the indispensable role of Japan—a role that is global, and begins in Asia," Bush told the Japanese lawmakers.

"Your diplomats helped build a worldwide coalition to defend freedom. Your self-defense forces are providing important logistical support. And your generosity is helping to rebuild a liberated Afghanistan."

Bin Laden and his associates have been blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks, which left about 3,000 people dead.

Outlining his security vision for Asia, Bush said the United States was interested in seeing "a peaceful region where no power, or coalition of powers, endangers the security or freedom of other nations."

"We seek a peaceful region where the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction do not threaten humanity," the US president added, promising to use his missile defense program to help defend the region.

Bush said there was no doubting about the outcome of the US-led war on terrorism.

"Freedom will prevail. Civilization and terrorism cannot co-exist. And by defeating terror, we will defend the peace of the world," he said.

The president's address to the Diet capped a two-day visit to Japan designed to embrace Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's economic reforms and launch a firm defense of Bush's hardline stance against missile-trafficking North Korea.

N. Korean message

On Tuesday afternoon, Bush faced protests in Seoul's streets and a combative new message from North Korea on Tuesday afternoon when he opened his two-day visit to South Korea.

Bush, however, toned down his rhetoric that many in the region have perceived as troublesome saber-rattling and spoke of "a fellowship of free Pacific nations."

When he speaks to US troops in the Demilitarized Zone separating North from South on Wednesday, Bush does not plan to repeat the "axis of evil" phrase, said presidential counselor Karen Hughes.

But North Korea's Radio Pyongyang said Tuesday that the United States was trying to incite a second Korean War by pulling Japan into its alliance, as in the first Korean War.

"If the US imperialists and Japanese reactionaries should provoke the second Korean War, to the end, our military and people will attack them with 100 times to 1,000 times of revenge," the official Radio Pyongyang said in a commentary monitored by the Radiopress agency in Tokyo.

When Bush addresses the troops, he is instead expected to stick to less inflammatory language describing North Korea as one of the world's most dangerous and repressive regimes.

The president was bringing to the DMZ an unclassified satellite photo of visible light on the Korean peninsula, showing the highly developed South awash in blocks of light and only two or three pinpricks of light in the North, the largest in the Pyongyang capital.

Bush sees the photo as proof of the "light and opportunity that comes with freedom and the dark that comes with a regime that's repressive and holds its own people back," Hughes said.

Protests

Bush's "axis of evil" phrase, so antithetical to South Korea's "sunshine policy" of engaging the North, sent hundreds of anti-US protesters into the streets of Seoul before Bush's visit.

"Bush is a war maniac and an international hooligan," demonstrators chanted over the weekend. And on Monday, they scuffled with police at the US Embassy and at the American Chamber of Commerce here—a distraction from the message of partnership with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung that Bush hoped this visit would impart.

On Tuesday, about 60 anti-US protesters scuffled with police outside the military airport where Bush arrived aboard Air Force One.

"Bush is (the) axis of evil," read a placard at the demonstration at the gates of K-16 airport on the southern outskirts of Seoul.

Police with plastic shields outnumbered the protesters, and there were no injuries. Bush left the airport in a helicopter.

Hours earlier, about 700 South Korean war veterans waved small US and South Korean flags in a welcome for Bush. They praised Bush's condemnation of the North, and said the presence of 37,000 US troops in South Korea was an essential deterrent against the communist country.

The South Korean president was welcoming Bush to the Blue House, the official presidential residence, on Wednesday morning for two hours of talks expected to focus on their differences over how to achieve inter-Korean reconciliation.

Just last week, Kim reiterated his worry that the new Bush rhetoric could create "a war atmosphere" on the peninsula. ***Reports from AFP and AP***

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4th Foundation Anniversary
February 20, 2002

MESSAGES

Warmest greetings to the Officials, Faculty and Staff of Southeast Asian College in the celebration of its 4th Founding Anniversary.

It is worthy to note that this momentous event serves as a proof of our commitment in the pursuit for a continuous educational and professional excellence in the new millennium. I hope that your institution will continue to live up to the tradition as part of the "Exponent of the Philippine Educational Progress." Go and help the nation by producing top caliber graduates!

Congratulations!

Amelia A. Biglete
DR. AMELIA BIGLETE
Director, CHED NCR

Congratulation to the Southeast Asian College on the occation of its 4th foundation anniversary.

I urge all the men and women of the SACI family, with their professionalism and dedication to quality education, to keep up the good work and to maintain the highest possible standard of service.

PETER LAUREL
Chairman of the Board

My warmest greetings to the students, faculty and staff of the Southeast Asian College.

Although relatively young, our institution has complied an admirable record of achiement and accomplishment. The contribution we have made for the advancement of Philippine education system speaks of our agherence to the tenets of quality education.

Let us continue the momentum we have gained over the past four years as an active participant in nation building and in waging the battle against ignorance, illiteracy, immorality and mediocrity.

Congratulation and best wishes for our continuing success.

DR. DELFIN TAN
President

In behalf of the administration of the Southeast Asian College, it is with distinct pleasure and pride that I extend my warmest greetings to our four year unbroken existance.

For four years now, the Southeast Asian College has earned a reputation for commitment and dedication to academic excellence and affordable quality education. Our continued existence was a product of balance educational program and Christian values was anchored in our commitment of social responsibility.

Today, we have so far achieved our primordial goal of imparting education and training to our youth in their chosen fields. Hence developed them into active contributors towards the improvement of the quality of life and the promotion of the well being people.

I would like to take this occasion to thank our officers, faculty members, employees and students for their continued support and cooperation. Together let us strengthen our bond and continue with our active participation in producing proud, progressive and free generation of Filipino youth.

EDITA ENATSU
EVP-Treasurer

SACI continuing its tradition

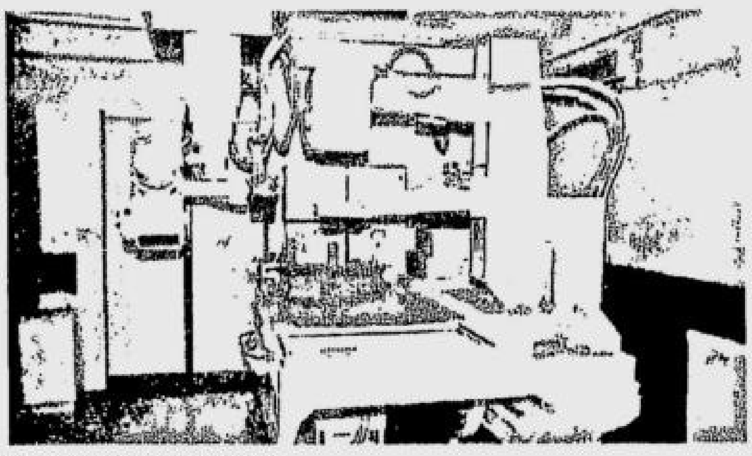
"As part of the exponent for Philippine Educational advancement"

For four years we have collectively mustered the strength of spirit, which provide us with passport to success.

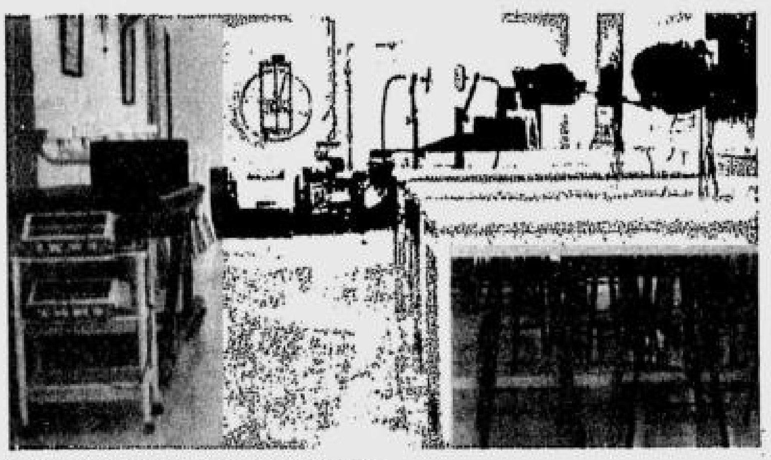
It has been a tough process of growing up, of growing big, of growing strong; a demanding task which we had drawn out the boldest courage and perseverance.

As we hurdle and hurdle we must, we surge forward through relentless quest for quality education for the attainment of our indomitable goal of impairing it at affordable cost. From our humble beginning we have grown up into big, strong and sturdy institution that boast of a long line of graduates who have come to distinguish themselves in their chosen field of endeavor.

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES . . .



Rad Tech Laboratory



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Montaña one victory away from crown

By Dennis U. Eroa

CEBU CITY—Montaña Jewels, still looking for its first major title, outplayed Blu Detergent Kings, 75-68, and moved to within a victory topping the First CBF-PBL Challenge Cup Monday night at the New Cebu Coliseum here.

The Jewels set the tone of the match with a 25-12 first quarter blast, sustaining their fiery start with a defense which forced the Detergent Kings to commit turnovers and make poor shots.

"Defense did it, we really wanted to win," said Montaña mentor Turing Valenzona.

The Jewelers go for the jugular in Game Two of the best-of-3 championship series Tuesday night.

Blu actually started the match on a bright note as former Adamson standout Tristan Codamon beat Montaña's Jayman Misola, Skygo's Edward Sumampay, Casino's Jeofry Balague and Hapee's Rommel David in the slam dunk competition.

But the Jewels, who lost to the Detergent Kings in the eliminations, 67-66, were determined not to let their fans down as they played with more determination.

Jenkins Mesina, Jan Alfad, Misola and former Blu pointguard Marlon Kalaw mocked Blu's shaky defense. After 20 minutes of action, Montaña was on top by 14, 42-28.

Slotman Marlon Legaspi managed to score 14 points but he was outmaneuvered by the power-playing duo of Misola and Alfad in the middle. Gottenbos also finished with 14, marked by torrid shooting in the fourth period.

Aries Dimaunahan, crowd darling with his go-go plays and good looks, contributed 10 but like his teammates wilted in the second half.

Mendez shot seven and courageously sliced the middle but the Jewels held their ground.

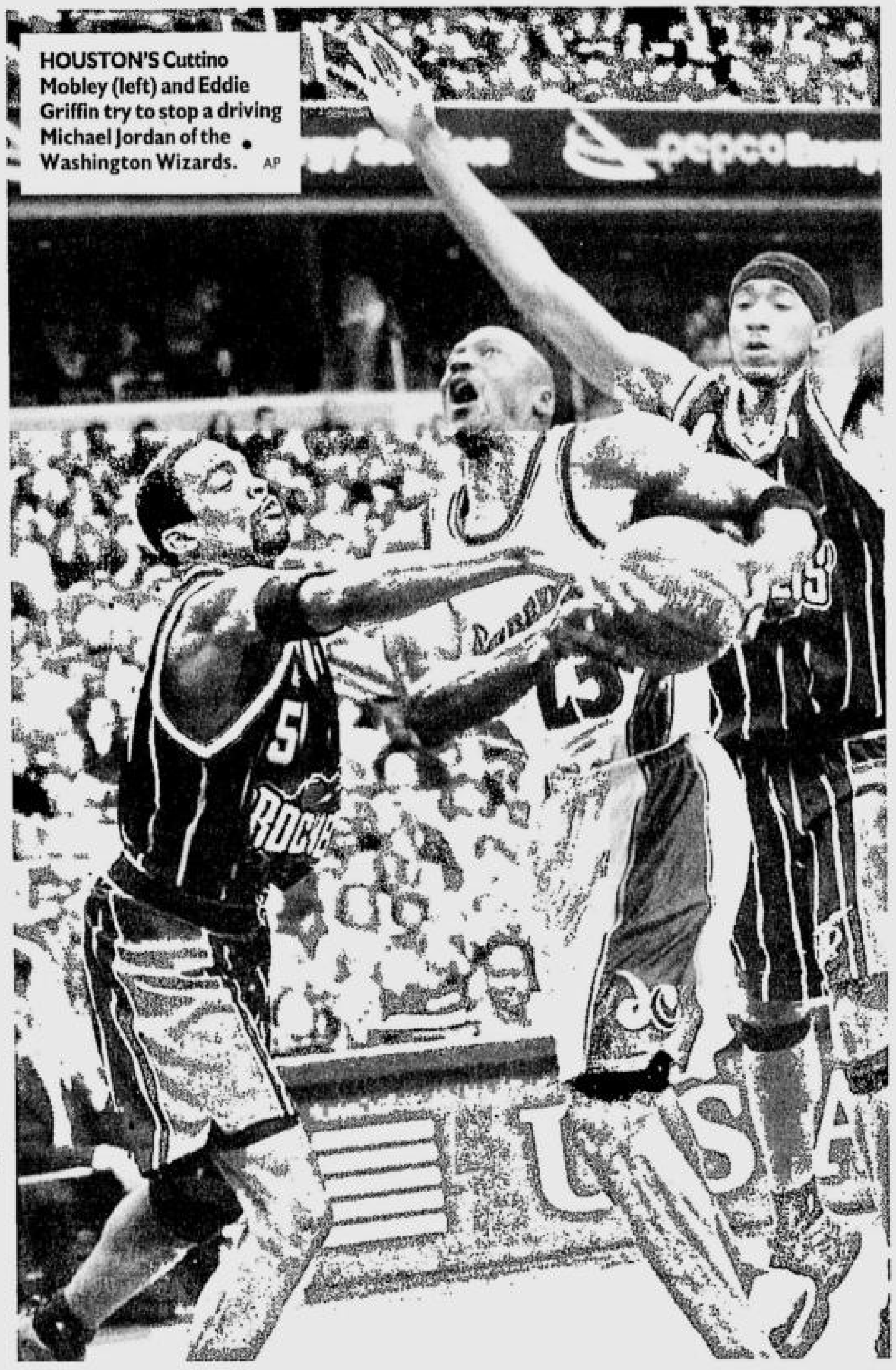
Earlier, Granny Goose slipped past Hapee Toothpaste, 85-83, in overtime to take a similar 1-0 lead in their best-of-3 series for third.

Scores:

MONTAÑA 75—Macapagal 15, Alfad 14, Mesina 11, David 10, Misola 9, Kalaw 8, Pua 6, Lim 2.

BLU 68—Gottenbos 14, Legaspi 14, Dimaunahan 10, Latoreno 9, Codamon 7, Mendez 7, Calo 3, Dela Cuesta 2, Roldan 0, Prior 0.

Quarters: 25-12, 42-28, 58-46, 75-68.



HOUSTON'S Cuttino Mobley (left) and Eddie Griffin try to stop a driving Michael Jordan of the Washington Wizards. AP

Purefoods edges Gin

GAME TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Selecta-RP Team vs Alaska

By June Navarro

DERRICK Brown powered Purefoods to a thrilling come-from-behind 60-58 victory over Barangay Ginebra and a share of the lead with Red Bull last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Brown, a 6-foot-5 banger out of Providence College in the United States, made five straight points in the final two minutes to lift the Hotdogs to their second straight victory.

Unstoppable in the shaded lane, the 28-year-old Brown barreled his way to two three-point plays off Jarrod Gee in the waning moments as the Hotdogs completed their escape against the Kings.

After Brown capped his 35-point performance, the Hotdogs put up a stingy defense along the way that prevented the Kings to stage a comeback.

The Kings absorbed their second straight setback after yielding a 68-63 decision to Alaska last week.

"In the end, defense played a vital role in our victory," said interim coach Ryan Gregorio, whose wards held the Kings scoreless in the final three minutes.

Vergel Meneses drilled a triple entering the three-minute mark to give the Kings a 58-53 advantage but it proved to be Ginebra's last hurrah as Brown and Alvin Patrimonio went to work.

Patrimonio, listless three-fourths of the way, broke his silence with a jumper that shoved the Hotdogs to within 55-58 before Brown sparkled.

PUREFOODS 60—Brown 35, Magsanoc 9, White 8, Patrimonio 6, Yee 2, Balingit 0, Evangelista 0, Yap 0, Raymundo 0.

GINEBRA 58—Wells 21, Gee 14, Meneses 12, Caguioa 9, Magtulis 2, Helterbrand 0, Tolomia 0, Malabanan 0.

Quarters: 19-18, 30-37, 43-50, 60-58

Nat'l students meet attracts 28 squads

By Roy Luarca

TWENTY-EIGHT teams will be competing in the 56th National Students Basketball Championships slated Feb. 24-March 2 at the Gerry Roxas Convention Center in Roxas City.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim said yesterday that Roxas City, through Mayor Antonio del Rosario and the city council, agreed to host both the inter-collegiate and inter-secondary competitions, which were held separately the last two years.

Fifteen teams from the secondary level and 13 from the tertiary level are entered in the tournament to be sponsored by Absolute Distilled Water.

Heading the field are reigning inter-secondary titlist San Beda College and inter-collegiate defending champion St. Francis of Assisi.

Other teams in the inter-collegiate are Las Piñas College, Agusan Institute of Technology, Luzon Colleges, Angeles University Foundation, Colegio Purisima de Concepcion, Salazar Institute of Technology, University of Visayas, Leyte Institute of Technology, Southern Colleges of Zamboanga City, University of Mindanao and a yet to be chosen team from Negros.

Challenging San Beda are Philippine College of Criminology, Saint Francis High School, Mapua Institute of Technology, Agusan Institute of Technology High, Don Bosco Pampanga, Naga Hope Christian High School, Iloilo Chinese Commercial High, Colegio La Purisima High School, Salazar High School, University of Visayas, Ormoc City National High, Southern Colleges of Zamboanga City, Sacred Heart of Montessori and Agro Foundation High School.

Rockets blast Wizards, 102-89

WASHINGTON—Cuttino Mobley had 31 points and Steve Francis, questionable before tipoff with a migraine, scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half in the NBA Monday as the Houston Rockets beat the Washington Wizards, 102-89.

Francis, Mobley and Kenny Thomas scored all their points in 22-8 run that gave the Rockets an 80-70 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Richard Hamilton scored 21 points, Chris Whitney had 19, and Michael Jordan had 11 points and 11 assists one day after his 39th birthday for the Wizards, who had won four consecutive at home and six of eight overall.

76ers 110, Nuggets 83

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson had 27 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, and Dikembe Mutombo added 20 points on 9-for-9 shooting to lead Philadelphia over Denver.

Avery Johnson and Raef LaFrentz each had 17 for the Nuggets, who lost their second consecutive after winning two in succession on the road.

Jazz 103, Cavaliers 92

In Cleveland, Karl Malone scored 35 points to lead Utah past Cleveland.

Malone dominated the second half by scoring 23 points as Utah won its fifth consecutive game and improved to 5-2 on its nine-game road trip, forced by the Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Malone was a key factor in forcing three Cleveland players—centers Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Chris Mihm, and forward Tyrone Hill—to foul out. Malone went 11-for-24 from the field and made 13 of 16 free throws.

Pistons 89, Raptors 76

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jerry Stackhouse scored 20 points, and Ben Wallace added 13 points and 13 rebounds to help Detroit beat injury-depleted Toronto.

The Pistons (29-22) have won three consecutive games and nine of their past 11 to move seven games over .500 for the first time since they were 14-7.

Heat 102, Bulls 80

In Miami, Alonzo Mourning scored 23 points as Miami defeated Chicago for its 13th victory in 17 games.

The Bulls dressed only eight players, holding forward Ron Artest and center Brad Miller out of the game and leaving injured forward Charles Oakley at home. *AP*

Complete results:

Rockets 102, Wizards 89; 76ers 110, Nuggets 83; Jazz 103, Cavaliers 92; Pistons 89, Raptors 76; Heat 102, Bulls 80; Hornets 101, Bucks 92; Trail Blazers 80, Clippers 79. *AP*

Ivanisevic bundled out

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands—Qualifier Ivo Heuberger of Switzerland eliminated Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic on Monday in the first round of the $713,000 indoor ABN Amro tournament.

The unseeded Heuberger upset the No. 8 seed from Croatia in straight sets, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Also, third-seeded Marat Safin of Russia advanced to the second round, holding down Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia despite two tie-breaks, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4). Briton Martin Lee kept a clean sheet in two tie-breaks as he upset Dutchman Sjeng Schalken 7-6 (0), 7-6 (0).

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Far Eastern University beat University of the East, 87-83, to snare the national intercollegiate basketball crown at the Nepo Coliseum in Angeles City. Also today in 1989, Michael Macaraeg defeated John Rey Tiangco, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, to capture the boys' 18-and-under division in the 1st Seiko Cup age group tennis championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Futsal Open gets under way

THE FIRST Nike Futsal Open kicked off last Saturday with 40 club and intercollegiate teams displaying their skills at the Ateneo de Manila's Moro Lorenzo Sports Center in Katipunan.

Gracing the opening ceremony were officials from the presenting sponsor Nike Philippines as well as the Philippine Football Federation, National Capital Region Football Association and the Philippine Sports Commission.

"It took two years to finally realize the staging of the Nike Futsal Open. This is the beginning of a new era in sports," said Nike Phils. marketing coordinator Rey San Agustin, a former Ateneo varsity football player who also donned the national colors.

PFF president Rene Adad welcomed Nike's initiative to promote futsal or indoor soccer, a sport popular in South America and Europe. "The world-governing body Fifa is encouraging other Asian countries to play futsal and so we than Nike for organizing this tournament," said Adad, who believes that the sport will eventually become one of the more sports in the country.

Wind Blown-Batangas Entry tiff set

WIND Blown, the 2001 Horse of the Year, and Batangas Entry face each other again in the second running of the First Gentleman's Silver Cup Race at the Santa Ana Park this Sunday.

To be disputed over 2,050 meters, the prestigious race carries a guaranteed pot of P1.7 million, with a hefty P1.1 million going to the winner.

Wind Blown beat Batangas Entry in the Presidential Gold Cup last Dec. 16 but nearly lost to the same horse in the Classic Open last Dec. 29.

Hermie Esguerra's prized colt latest win came in the Regally Stakes last Feb. 3, while Paolo Mendoza's Batangas Entry is fresh from topping the Senate President Cup last Feb. 17.

No less than First Gentleman Jose Miguel T. Arroyo, the event's honoree, has been invited to grace the occasion and award the PCSO Silver Cup to the owner of the winning entry.

Star jockey Fernando Raquel Jr. is riding Wind Blown, who will gun for a repeat win, while Miguel Recosana is handling Batangas Entry.

Haydee on RA 9064

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ASIDE from the late Inocencia Solis, once Asia's fastest woman, there are other countless former sporting legends who will benefit from Republic Act 9064—President Macapagal-Arroyo's first sports law—that will reward the exploits of retired athletes through a long overdue multi-million-peso incentive program.

One of the beneficiaries is Hayde Coloso-Espino.

Espino, once dubbed as "Asian Swim Queen," has lamented the unequal treatment and long delay in the implementation of cash incentives to past achievers like her. And she has valid reasons to complain. The most bemedalled woman swimmer in Philippine sports history, Espino said, "Last year's SEA Games medalists are very lucky indeed because they received their incentives right away. In our case, we have been waiting for almost half a century. The long wait is very agonizing to aging and sickly athletes like us. Do we have no wait for another half a century?"

Now in her sixties, Espino stressed that they also proudly carried the Philippine flag and sang with fervor the national anthem during the medal ceremonies. "We certainly deserve a far better treatment." She added that during their time, they were not pampered compared to the present crop of athletes who receive regular allowances, food and vitamins and other amenities such as living quarters during their training.

"Our only fault," she once wrote, "was that we accomplished our medal-winning feats before the enactment of RA 9064. Are we now going to be punished for that?"

* * *

SPORTS BRIEF: National Latin champion couple Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora did the country proud once more recently by winning the gold medal in the Japan Open Dance Sport competitions at Nagoya, Japan, besting 69 other pairs... As part of their outreach programs, the Dancesport Council of the Philippines headed by tireless Becky Garcia and the Professional Dance Teachers Association led by president Cynthia Mamon will be presenting the movie premiere of "Salsa" at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Meralco Theater on Ortigas Avenue. And over in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Puyat Sports' mainstays Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam are showing their wares in grand style before an international audience of billiards aficionados. "This only proves the world's high esteem for our players and our country," said Puyat Sports president Putch Puyat, billiards' eternal benefactor. Reyes will be playing exhibition matches and perform trick shots while Bustamante and Andam will be competing in the First Fujairah International 9-Ball tournament among 16 invited players. The winner of this unique tournament gets one kilogram of gold!

* * *

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ICE DANCERS

Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat of France compete in the ice dancing free program at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Monday. Anissina and Peizerat captured the gold medal. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Australia captures 2nd gold

SALT LAKE CITY — A figure skating revolution in the making. Australia ahead of Austria. Germany ahead of everyone. A speedskater skips town under a doping cloud. Day 11 of the Winter Olympics brought sunny Australia, a land of swimmers and surfers, its second gold medal in three days and incredibly put it ahead of Alpine powerhouse Austria, which still has just one gold. Alisa Camplin won the women's freestyle aerials Monday to go with Steven Bradbury's totally unexpected Aussie triumph in short track speedskating Saturday. *AP*

Vence, Martes joining HK race

SOUTHEAST Asian Games marathon king and queen Rov Vence and Cristable Martes will pit their skills against some of the best runners in the region and in Asia in the eighth Asian Marathon championships on Feb. 24 in Hong Kong. This will be the first international outing for the duo after contributing the 2001 SEA Games men's and women's titles to the total nine gold medals won in Kuala Lumpur by their team, collectively known as GTK's Army which is now eyeing a similar impressive campaign in the coming Asian Games.

Firefly Thunderbird shows way

BETTING favorite Firefly Thunderbird-8 of the powerhouse Firefly Group and Thunderbird Firefly-II of sportsman-businessman Jorge "Nene" Araneta posted three straight wins yesterday to pace the NCA 7-Cock Derby which enters its four-cock finals tonight (Wednesday) at the Araneta Coliseum.

'Arya Abra' sportsfest, festival set

THE PROVINCIAL government of Abra led by Governor Vicsid Valera is set to launch the Arya Abra Festival 2002 on Feb. 26 at Century Park Hotel. The province's annual tourist attraction features sports events and other cultural activities. Bangued mayor Ching Valera said the launch will also showcase a fashion show and exhibit of Abra's handwoven fabrics.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

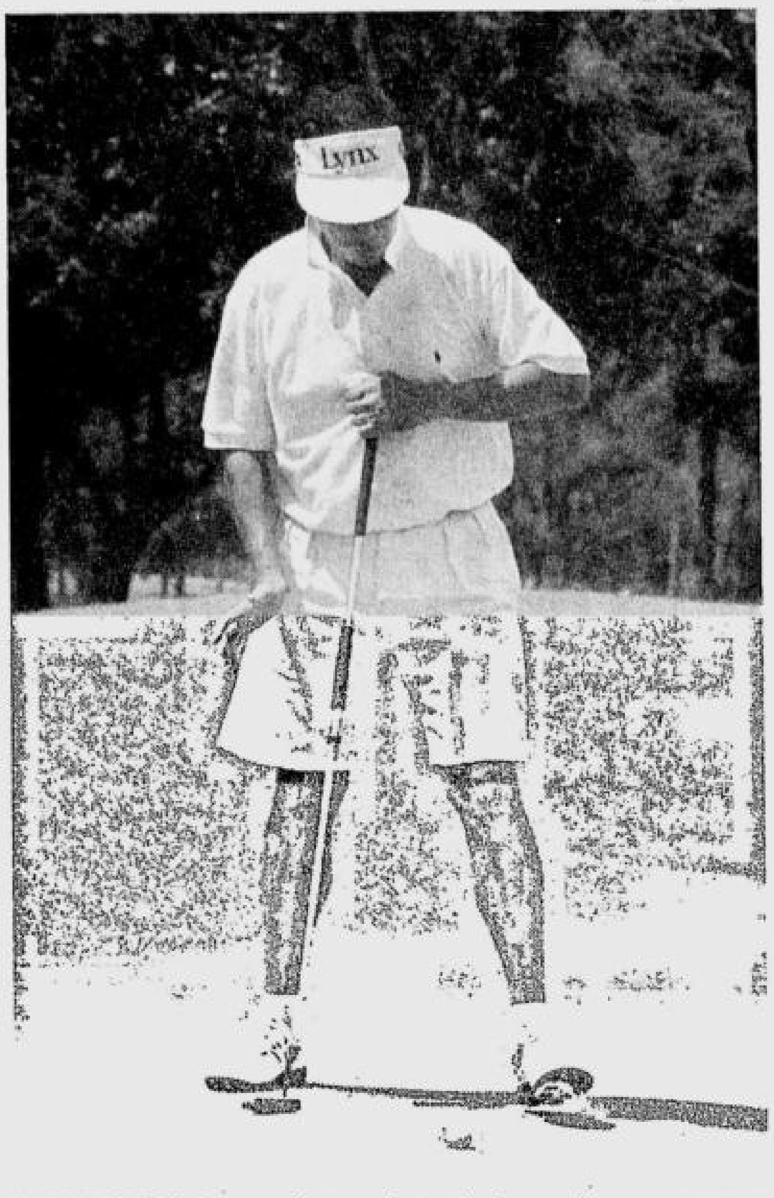
BASKETBALL: NBA - Minnesota Timberwolves vs Dallas Mavericks at 8 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA - Iowa vs Wisconsin at 1 p.m., Connecticut vs Georgetown at midnight on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Nissan Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Agile China Amateur Golf Tour 2001 Highlights at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Manotoc tops Casino Filipino qualifying



MANOTOC: His latent talent coming to the fore again. JESS YUSON

IN golf, as in love, age does not matter.

This was proven again yesterday when Tommy Manotoc fired a 1-under-par 71 at Villamor to top the qualifying round for 10 slots into the Casino Filipino 87th Philippine Open.

The 52-year-old Manotoc, a many-time low amateur medalist of the fabled RP Open, went out with a brilliant 3-under-par 33 before coasting home with a 38 for a runaway 148 total.

He was five shots ahead of runner-up Jun Bernis (78-75=153).

Manotoc opened up with a 77 Monday in the two-day qualifying for Filipinos not seeded into the RP Open, the oldest professional golf tournament in Asia.

Manotoc's strong showing recalled his glory years when he virtually lorded it over in the RP Open from the '70s to the '80s.

The next nine finishers after yesterday's round joined Manotoc into the RP Open set March 7-10 at Wack Wack East.

Third at 154 was Solomon Gines (78-76), fourth Joon Choi (83-72=154) and fifth Toyoda Kunihiro (81-77=155).

The 6th to 10th placers were Dave Hernandez (82-78=160), Randy Garalde (83-78=161), Ronnie Torrecampo (81-82=163), Seong Ki Lee (81-82=163), and Takahashi Yukihiro (85-79=164).

The survivors from 11th to 22nd became automatic alternates. Any no-show from the starting field of almost 159 will give the non-qualifiers chances to make it to the RP Open proper.

Those who did not make it outright were Lyndon Barril, Juami Rocha, Chester Calpotura, Bobby Celestino, Bernard Villa, Jong Laput, Jojo Cruz, Anthony Victoria, Roy Tolentino and Tony Santos.

This year's Open, now a part of the Davidoff Tour of the Asian PGA, offers an initial pot of P10 million from Pagcor through Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer (presentor). Mitsubishi will again be the Open's official car.

The Top 60 of last year's Asian Tour are seeded into the Open that is also supported by U-Bix, PLDT, Solahart, Cafe Appassionato, Mizuno, Citgo, Unilver and Cena, among others.

Thai Open Chua's next mission

CHUA

PHILIPPINE Ladies Open champion Heidi Chua headed for Bangkok over the weekend to compete in the Thailand Amateur Open starting today at the President's Golf Club.

The 25-year-old Chua, also a two-time Southern Ladies Open titlist, is using the tournament as part of her preparations for the Busan Asian Games in September.

Chua, a marketing management graduate of De La Salle University, was joined by Aileen Rose Yao, Lora Roberto and Nathalie Joy Yu. They were accompanied by National Golf Association of the Philippines director Alice Andrada.

In Bangkok, Chua will be wearing a new set of Kipling's mask type sunglasses and Lacoste Sports eyewear.

Reason behind the shades? "When I have my shades on, I can create my own world behind the lenses. That way I can concentrate more on my game and less on those watching," said Chua, one of the country's most fashionable lady golfers.

Chua described her Berlin-made Kipling sunglasses as "very stylish, up-to-date and hip."

As to her Lacoste Sports eyewear, Chua said it is designed to filter ultra-violet radiation that causes the heating and drying of the eye.

Chua, a Wack Wack mainstay, lost her Southern Ladies crown two weeks back in Del Monte to Canlubang's Lina de Guzman.

Coaches slam PSC favoritism on foreigners

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL track and field coaches yesterday asked clarification from the Philippine Sports Commission regarding the PSC's policies on foreign coaches, whose salaries far exceed those of their Filipino counterparts.

That development came after the PSC pledged to spend P30 million for the actual participation of the national delegation in the Busan Asian Games, while Manila Mayor Lito Atienza made a big push for the city's hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

The six coaches, who are all Filipinos, said they wanted to know the basis for hiring foreign coaches, whose salaries range from $2,000 to $2,500 monthly aside from transportation and housing allowances.

Transportation and housing allowances are pegged at P15,000 each monthly, thereby rewarding an average foreign coach of at least P150,000 paycheck a month.

In contrast, Filipino coaches receive a paltry P15,500 a month on the average.

"We received many applications from Chinese and Russian coaches," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association secretary general Ben Silva-Netto. "But we have to turn them down because our local coaches are more qualified."

Silva-Netto said "our six local coaches are 'export quality' because they don't only have college degrees but have also passed at least level 1 of the International Amateur Athletics Federation ranking."

Dario De Rosas and Joseph Sy are already IAAF level 2 coaches, having finished among the top 3 of the IAAF examination given last year in Jakarta. The four others – Isidro del Prado, Jojo Posadas, Mario Castro and Romeo Gido — are in level 1.

"And yet we are only getting P12,500 monthly salary and P3,000 food allowance from the PSC," said De Rosas. "We are saving the PSC at least P6 million a year by not hiring foreign coaches. We believe that we should be getting the salaries commensurate to our qualifications."

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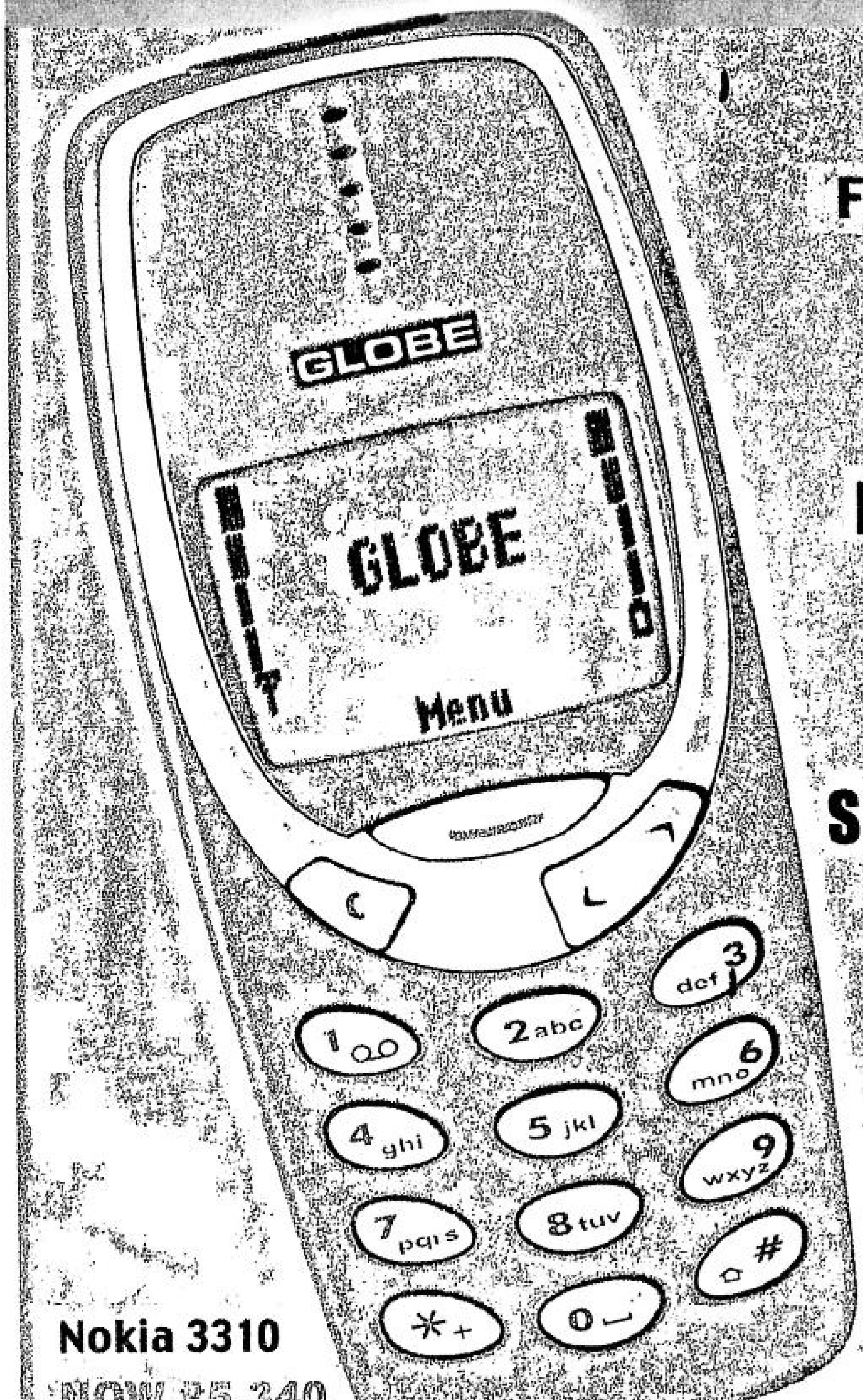

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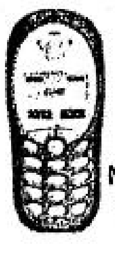

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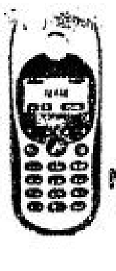

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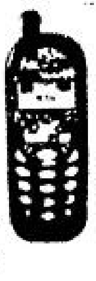

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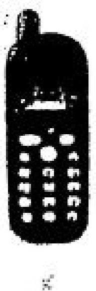

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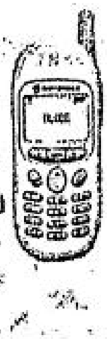

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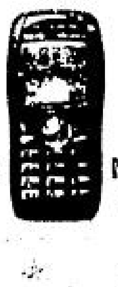

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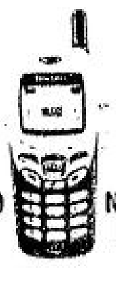

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Pasay residents vs transfer of gas depot /A22
Bare Eye: Maricel Soriano loses a great fan/A22

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Two nabbed preying on Japanese tourist /A22

Taguig groups: Who's behind ghost resolution on casino?

By Christian V. Esguerra

CHURCH groups opposing the supposed plan to build a hotel-casino in Taguig's Global City have urged the town's councilors to identify the sponsor of a resolution authorizing the construction.

"Whoever is behind it should come forward and claim responsibility," said pastor Archie de Villa, head of the Alliance of God's Ambassadors and Pastors (Agap).

The alliance, composed of about 80 local church organizations, fears that a member of the municipal council was trying "to pull a fast one" and authorized the construction of a hotel-casino, according to De Villa.

The municipal council received the one-page resolution without its sponsor's name last Oct. 23.

To boost local tourism and generate additional revenues for the Taguig government, the resolution authorized "the Philippine Amusement and Games (sic) Corp. to establish, operate and maintain an amusement arcade within the property of Philippine Realty and Holding Corp. located at the Bonifacio Global City."

Protesters fear that the so-called amusement arcade is a smokescreen for a hotel-casino.

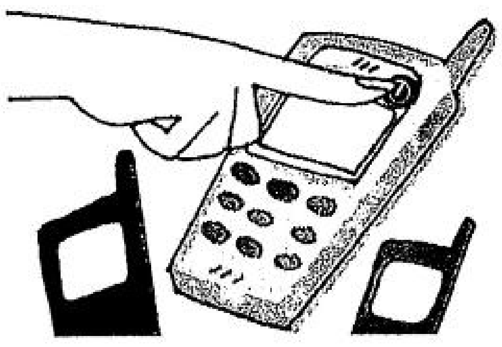
When the resolution surfaced, it created the impression that majority of the councilors were behind it, Vice Mayor Loida Labao-Alzona said yesterday.

TAGUIG GROUPS/ A22

DOUBLE TAKE

These one-year-old Vasquez twins, riding in a stroller especially made for pairs like them, never fail to get a second look from other people at the Quezon Memorial Park in Quezon City where they promenade with their babysitters. DENNIS SABANGAN

Switch off cell phones, prevent bank robberies



By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—Officials of commercial banks in this town have asked clients to switch off their cellular phones before entering the banks to prevent robberies.

The measure was implemented after police said robbers were now using cellular phones to exchange information about bank clients who withdrew large amounts.

Supt. Mario de la Vega, the Plaridel police director, said bank officials were initially hesitant to implement the measure, citing the inconvenience it would bring to bank clients.

On Feb. 5, robbers killed Edilberto del Rosario, 30, son of a Bulacan businessman, just minutes after he withdrew P200,000 from the Bank of the Philippine Islands branch here.

De la Vega said police investigation showed that one of the suspects was inside the bank and had been monitoring Del Rosario's movements.

Using a cellular phone, the suspect relayed Del Rosario's movements and information on his transactions to his companions who were outside the bank, police said.

De la Vega said the suspects, on board two motorcycles, tailed Del Rosario's car, shot him and took his money.

That robbery prompted alarmed bank officials to implement the precautionary measure, which police recommended.

At Allied Bank branches in Bulacan, security guards ask their clients to switch off their cellular phones while inside the bank.

At the Land Bank of the Philippines, security ask clients to surrender their phones before going inside the bank.

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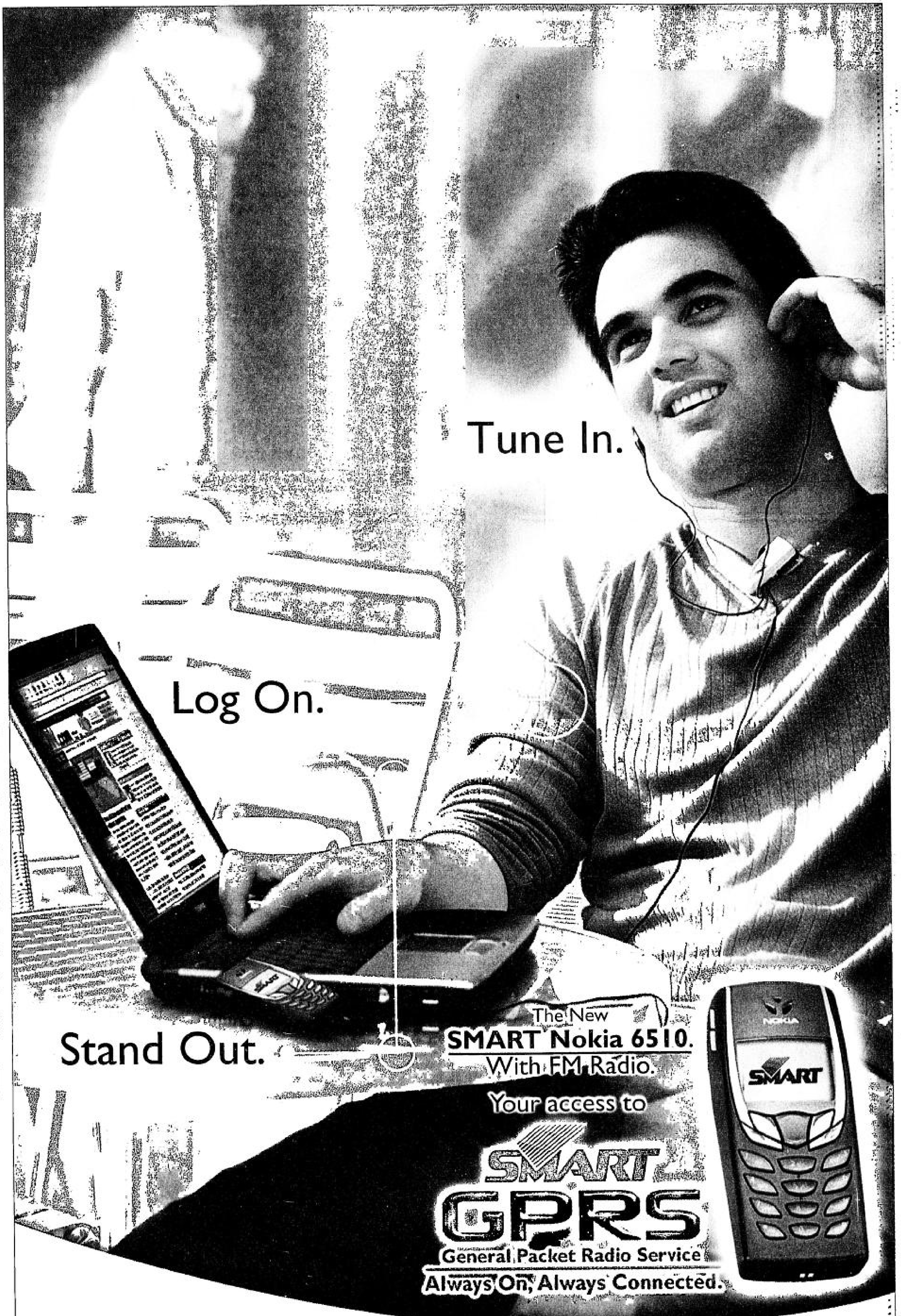

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Maricel Soriano loses a great fan

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ACTRESS Maricel Soriano has just lost a most ardent fan and believer. His name is Jose Sering.

He did not keep it a secret. However, not very many people knew that Gov. Sering, who went ahead of countless admirers and friends during breakfast last week, was a Soriano worshipper.

The leonine leader, whom many people now rank as the best ever president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, adored Soriano as the best that ever happened to Philippine movies.

You know Wrec — Gov used to call me by that name — I would always be there first thing in the morning on the first-day showing of any Maricel movie.

It was easy to believe him. You knew by the happy glitter in his eyes he was not kidding.

Gov's admiration for the talented actress was as honest and wholesome as his passion and love for Philippine sports.

In fact, he abandoned a great political career that saw him lording it long as governor of Surigao del Sur to give his best years to Filipino athletes.

* * *

As traced by veteran sports scribe Eddie Alinea, Sering's eight-year reign as POC head saw Lydia de Vega making it as the only woman to win the 100 meters back-to-back in the Asian Games - — 1982 New Delhi and 1986 Seoul.

Alinea, himself a Sering fan, noted that boxer Leopoldo Serrantes won a bronze medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and ended a 24-year medal drought for the Philippines under Sering's tenure at the POC.

Alinea said that Sering, who passed away on Valentine's Day, can also be remembered for having presided over the 1991 Southeast Asian Games, popularly known as the "Manila Miracle of '91," when the RP delegation won a total of 91 gold medals to finish a close second overall behind Indonesia.

"It was during his watch that people began to notice the POC as an independent and autonomous body," Alinea wrote. "He resisted pressures of any kind—whether official, religious or social—to gain respect for the sports governing body."

* * *

With his worth, it can be said that he deserves a monument, right in front of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

For one, he was an extraordinary man who influenced the national sports system with his sound leadership.

OK, maybe he also saw the national sports arena as a political battlefield, but it was healthy politics he had inflicted on the national sporting set-up.

In doubt? Then listen to what Alinea had to report: "Before the national contingent to the Seoul Olympics departed for the Games, then Manila Mayor Mel Lopez seized the presidency of the boxing association from Roilo Golez. Before that, however, the POC had already accredited six boxers submitted by Golez. Lopez sought to replace Golez's recommendations. The case was brought to the Court of Appeals. During a hearing, Justice Fidel Purismo asked Sering: 'Do you want to tell us, Mr. Sering, that your Philippine Olympic Committee is above the law of this land and you are beyond the jurisdiction of the court?' To which Sering replied: 'No, Your Honor. If this court will order me by final judgment to include these boxers, I will do so, otherwise I will be held for contempt. But what happens, Your Honor, when these boxers arrive in Seoul and the International Olympic Committee is informed that they were included by order of this court and not by our own free will, and they will be sent home or not allowed to participate in the Games? Can the Court order the IOC to include them?"

The Court of Appeals, informed that IOC mandates that only Olympic Committees could accredit athletes, dismissed the suit. Case closed.

* * *

Gov, a born leader, could have coolly reined in the dirty, raging politicians in the current national sports set-up.

Many people will revere him in many fine ways. But I will always look up to Gov — I used to call him Mr. Cool — as a father.

The year was 1972, the scene the Munich Olympics. It was the morning after the Black September massacre of Israeli athletes by Arab terrorists who had climbed over the security fence disguised as Games Village workers.

I was staying in a borrowed hotel room, courtesy of Eddie Gullas, on Senefelder Strasse. I was packing up for an evening train trip to Paris when the phone rang. It was Gov. Sering. He asked me to meet him in a restaurant in front of the Games Village main entrance.

Gov came with his wife, Mommy Socorro. He ordered drinks and sandwiches.

Then, when it was time for them to move back into their room inside the heavily secured Village, he held me by the shoulder and pushed an envelope into my pocket. He obviously sensed I had strayed into Munich with only a few pesos in my pocket.

"You don't have to go cold and hungry," he whispered, his eyes moist, like a father sending a son on a long, lonely journey. I took the pre-paid third-class trip to Paris hours later.

* * *

We were to meet many more times after Munich. He commissioned me to do a special magazine on Olympism.

I was both a son and soldier to Gov.

We were quite close. And I would laugh loudest when he would say he could not come to the office on time because there was a new Maricel movie opening in a nearby theater. He laughed and cried with her.

Yes, Gov found Maricel Soriano cute, smart, extremely talented, a pure delight.

He was, in short, down to earth.

But let me confess that one thing hard to fathom about Gov was his candor and deep humility.

For example, through his deeds and kind words, he passed on to me a teaching by the legendary Juan Matus, who said that a man grows heavy and predictable with too much personal history.

Wear no false airs around you, he said.

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By Ronnel W. Domingo

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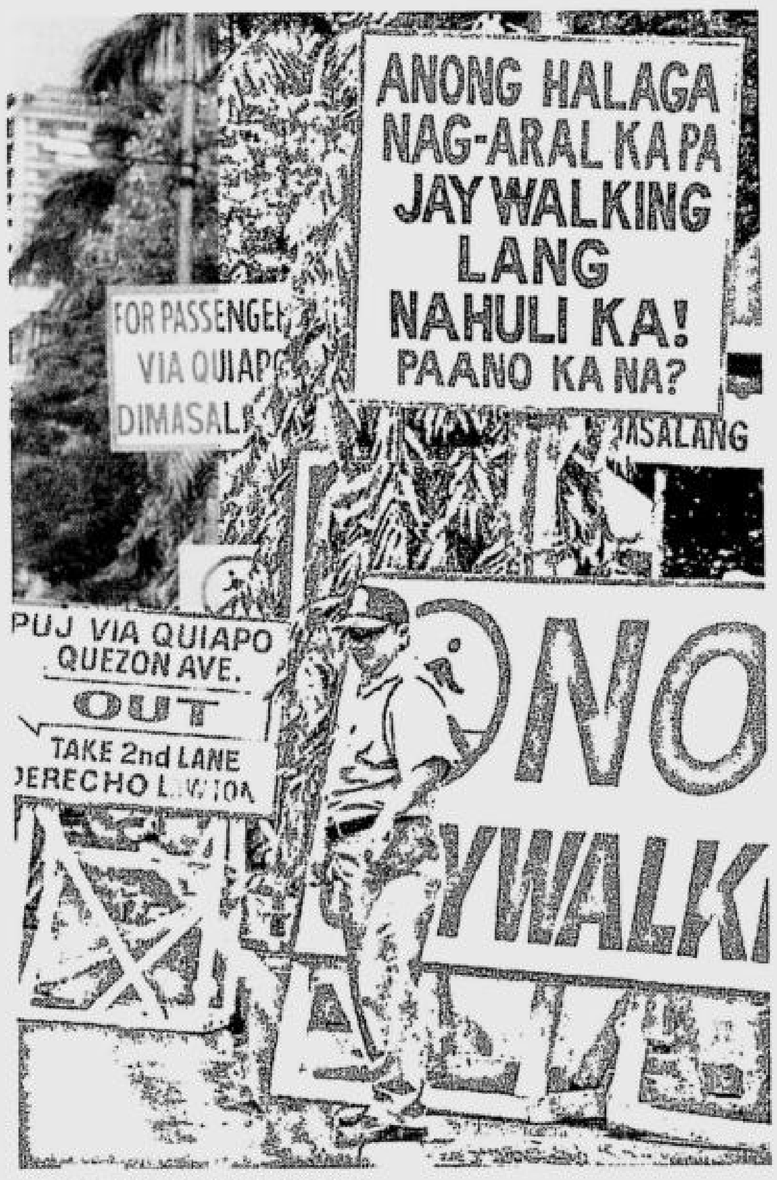

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Maricel Soriano loses a great fan

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ACTRESS Maricel Soriano has just lost a most ardent fan and believer. His name is Jose Sering.

He did not keep it a secret. However, not very many people knew that Gov. Sering, who went ahead of countless admirers and friends during breakfast last week, was a Soriano worshipper.

The leonine leader, whom many people now rank as the best ever president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, adored Soriano as the best that ever happened to Philippine movies.

You know Wrec — Gov used to call me by that name — I would always be there first thing in the morning on the first-day showing of any Maricel movie.

It was easy to believe him. You knew by the happy glitter in his eyes he was not kidding.

Gov's admiration for the talented actress was as honest and wholesome as his passion and love for Philippine sports.

In fact, he abandoned a great political career that saw him lording it long as governor of Surigao del Sur to give his best years to Filipino athletes.

* * *

As traced by veteran sports scribe Eddie Alinea, Sering's eight-year reign as POC head saw Lydia de Vega making it as the only woman to win the 100 meters back-to-back in the Asian Games - — 1982 New Delhi and 1986 Seoul.

Alinea, himself a Sering fan, noted that boxer Leopoldo Serrantes won a bronze medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and ended a 24-year medal drought for the Philippines under Sering's tenure at the POC.

Alinea said that Sering, who passed away on Valentine's Day, can also be remembered for having presided over the 1991 Southeast Asian Games, popularly known as the "Manila Miracle of '91," when the RP delegation won a total of 91 gold medals to finish a close second overall behind Indonesia.

"It was during his watch that people began to notice the POC as an independent and autonomous body," Alinea wrote. "He resisted pressures of any kind—whether official, religious or social—to gain respect for the sports governing body."

* * *

With his worth, it can be said that he deserves a monument, right in front of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

For one, he was an extraordinary man who influenced the national sports system with his sound leadership.

OK, maybe he also saw the national sports arena as a political battlefield, but it was healthy politics he had inflicted on the national sporting set-up.

In doubt? Then listen to what Alinea had to report: "Before the national contingent to the Seoul Olympics departed for the Games, then Manila Mayor Mel Lopez seized the presidency of the boxing association from Roilo Golez. Before that, however, the POC had already accredited six boxers submitted by Golez. Lopez sought to replace Golez's recommendations. The case was brought to the Court of Appeals. During a hearing, Justice Fidel Purismo asked Sering: 'Do you want to tell us, Mr. Sering, that your Philippine Olympic Committee is above the law of this land and you are beyond the jurisdiction of the court?' To which Sering replied: 'No, Your Honor. If this court will order me by final judgment to include these boxers, I will do so, otherwise I will be held for contempt. But what happens, Your Honor, when these boxers arrive in Seoul and the International Olympic Committee is informed that they were included by order of this court and not by our own free will, and they will be sent home or not allowed to participate in the Games? Can the Court order the IOC to include them?"

The Court of Appeals, informed that IOC mandates that only Olympic Committees could accredit athletes, dismissed the suit. Case closed.

* * *

Gov, a born leader, could have coolly reined in the dirty, raging politicians in the current national sports set-up.

Many people will revere him in many fine ways. But I will always look up to Gov — I used to call him Mr. Cool — as a father.

The year was 1972, the scene the Munich Olympics. It was the morning after the Black September massacre of Israeli athletes by Arab terrorists who had climbed over the security fence disguised as Games Village workers.

I was staying in a borrowed hotel room, courtesy of Eddie Gullas, on Senefelder Strasse. I was packing up for an evening train trip to Paris when the phone rang. It was Gov. Sering. He asked me to meet him in a restaurant in front of the Games Village main entrance.

Gov came with his wife, Mommy Socorro. He ordered drinks and sandwiches.

Then, when it was time for them to move back into their room inside the heavily secured Village, he held me by the shoulder and pushed an envelope into my pocket. He obviously sensed I had strayed into Munich with only a few pesos in my pocket.

"You don't have to go cold and hungry," he whispered, his eyes moist, like a father sending a son on a long, lonely journey. I took the pre-paid third-class trip to Paris hours later.

* * *

We were to meet many more times after Munich. He commissioned me to do a special magazine on Olympism.

I was both a son and soldier to Gov.

We were quite close. And I would laugh loudest when he would say he could not come to the office on time because there was a new Maricel movie opening in a nearby theater. He laughed and cried with her.

Yes, Gov found Maricel Soriano cute, smart, extremely talented, a pure delight.

He was, in short, down to earth.

But let me confess that one thing hard to fathom about Gov was his candor and deep humility.

For example, through his deeds and kind words, he passed on to me a teaching by the legendary Juan Matus, who said that a man grows heavy and predictable with too much personal history.

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2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 VANILLA SKY
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 HINOG SA PILIT
7 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
8 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9 RAT RACE
10 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 RAT RACE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 SHALLOW HAL
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 RIDING IN CARS
11 KATE & LEOPOLD
12 HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 THE OTHERS
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RAT RACE
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 HINOG SA PILIT
8 RIDING IN CARS
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .
11 VANILLA SKY
12 KATE & LEOPOLD

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4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RAT RACE
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 HINOG SA PILIT
8 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
11 VANILLA SKY
12 RIDING IN CARS

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2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 VANILLA SKY
5 RAT RACE
6 KATE & LEOPOLD
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8086782

1 RAT RACE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 KATE & LEOPOLD
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
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SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
2 THE OTHERS
3 KAULAYAW
4 HUSTLER
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 VANILLA SKY
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY ILOILO
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1 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
2 CLOSED
3 KATE & LEOPOLD
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 IKAW LAMANG
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 CLOSED
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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3 MARSHALL DICK
4 KATE & LEOPOLD
5 KAULAYAW
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
6820984

1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 CORKY ROMANO
2 THE OTHERS
3 IKAW LAMANG
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 VANILLA SKY

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

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1
2

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2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

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1 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	1 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 KATE &LEOPOLD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 BRIDE W/ WHITE HAIR (Exclusive Screening) In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 SHALLOW HAL THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 RAT RACE In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 SHALLOW HAL In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 SHALLOW HAL In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 SHALLOW HAL THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 NOWHERE TO HIDE (Phil. Premiere) In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 VANILLA SKY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	Art Film	4 ILLUSIONE FEB. 22, 23 & MARCH 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 Onstage	4 KATE &LEOPOLD In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 RAT RACE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1 (DDS) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
2 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
4 GOLD (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 GOLD (SDDS) RAT RACE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
8 KATE & LEOPOLD
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 VANILLA SKY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 2000
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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HINOG SA PILIT

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 HINOG SA PILIT

METROPOLIS star
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1 SHALLOW HAL
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 IKAW LAMANG . .
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RAT RACE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1 SHALLOW HAL

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 VANILLA SKY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
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1
2 HAPLOS NG PAGMAMAHAL
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1
A COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2
3
4 HINOG SA PILIT
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
8 (SDDS) RAT RACE
9 (DOLBY) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 HINOG SA PILIT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (SDDS) RAT RACE
5 HINOG SA PILIT
6 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
8 KAULAYAW
9 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 RESERVE
5 (SDDS) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RAT RACE
7 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 RESERVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 RAT RACE
5 (SDDS) SHALLOW HAL

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1 HINOG SA PILIT

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 HINOG SA PILIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson HINOG SA PILIT
Lords HINOG SA PILIT
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 HINOG SA PILIT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 RESERVE
4 HINOG SA PILIT
5 SHALLOW HAL

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 SHALLOW HAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC
3 (DOLBY) KATE & LEOPOLD
4 (DTS)

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 GIRLS FEVER
3
4 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) MARSHALL DICK
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 KAULAYAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 (DTS) HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 IKAW LAMANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC
3 VANILLA SKY
4 IKAW LAMANG . .

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) KATE & LEOPOLD
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 * THE OTHERS

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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1 THX COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 RAT RACE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
7 VANILLA SKY
8 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG...
9 KATE & LEOPOLD
10 HINOG SA PILIT

ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG...
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 RAT RACE
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 SHALLOW HAL

metro east - marcos hway
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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 RAT RACE
3 KATE & LEOPOLD
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG...
7 HINOG SA PILIT
8 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG...

novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG...
7 RAT RACE
8 KATE & LEOPOLD

imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG...
6 RAT RACE

bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 VANILLA SKY
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 MAY PAG-IBIG PA KAYA?
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
3 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG...
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 LORD OF THE RINGS

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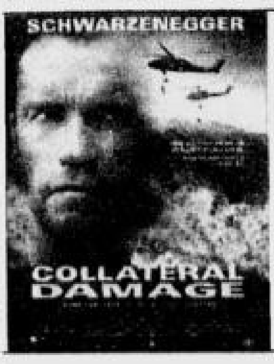

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HINOG SA PILIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SHALLOW HAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	RAT RACE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	IKAW LAMANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT / SOURCE OF THE NIGHT
ODEON	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ODEON-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
ROBEN	HINOG SA PILIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JOY RIDE / KING OF GLADIATORS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
B	HINOG SA PILIT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-2	SHALLOW HAL

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
CINEMA-5	IKAW LAMANG . . .
CINEMA-6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

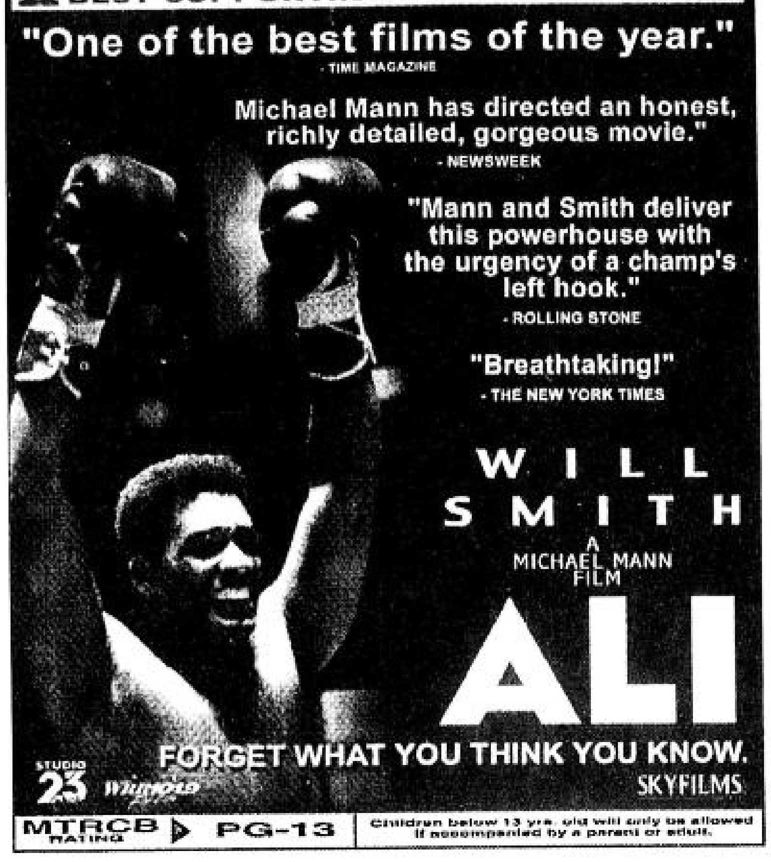
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

RAT RACE - GP 12:50, 3:15, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
MOTHMAN PROPHECIES - P 13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	IKAW LAMANG - GP 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

OPENS FEBRUARY 27

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTOR-WILL SMITH
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR-JON VOIGHT



"One of the best films of the year."
- TIME MAGAZINE

Michael Mann has directed an honest, richly detailed, gorgeous movie."
- NEWSWEEK

"Mann and Smith deliver this powerhouse with the urgency of a champ's left hook."
- ROLLING STONE

"Breathtaking!"
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

WILL SMITH
A MICHAEL MANN FILM
ALI
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SKYFILMS

STUDIO 23

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Six teams.
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RAT RACE

FROM DIRECTOR JERRY ZUCKER
CO-CREATOR OF AIRPLANE AND THE NAKED GUN

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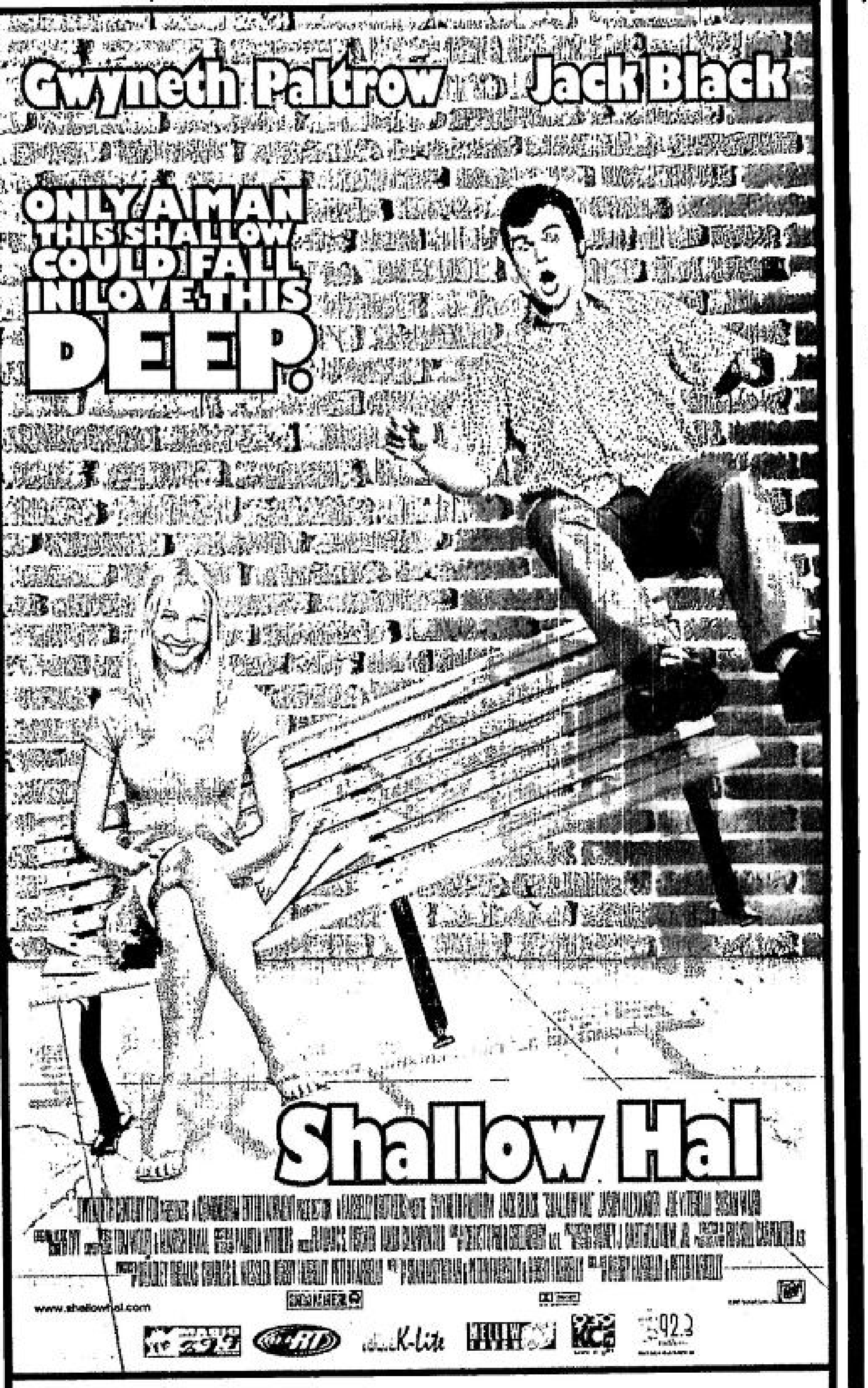

Gwyneth Paltrow Jack Black

ONLY A MAN THIS SHALLOW COULD FALL IN LOVE THIS DEEP.

Shallow Hal

www.shallowhal.com

OPENS TODAY !

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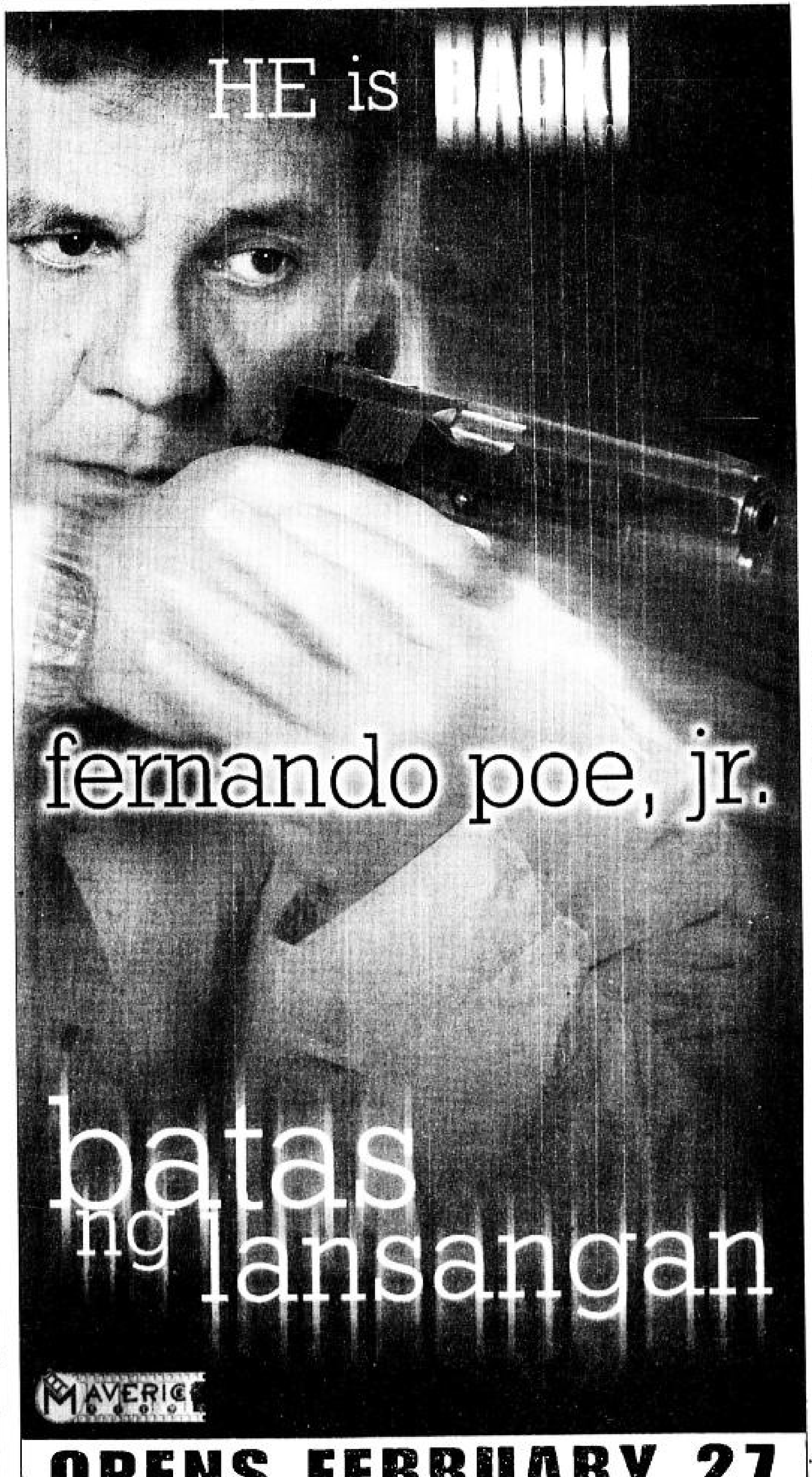


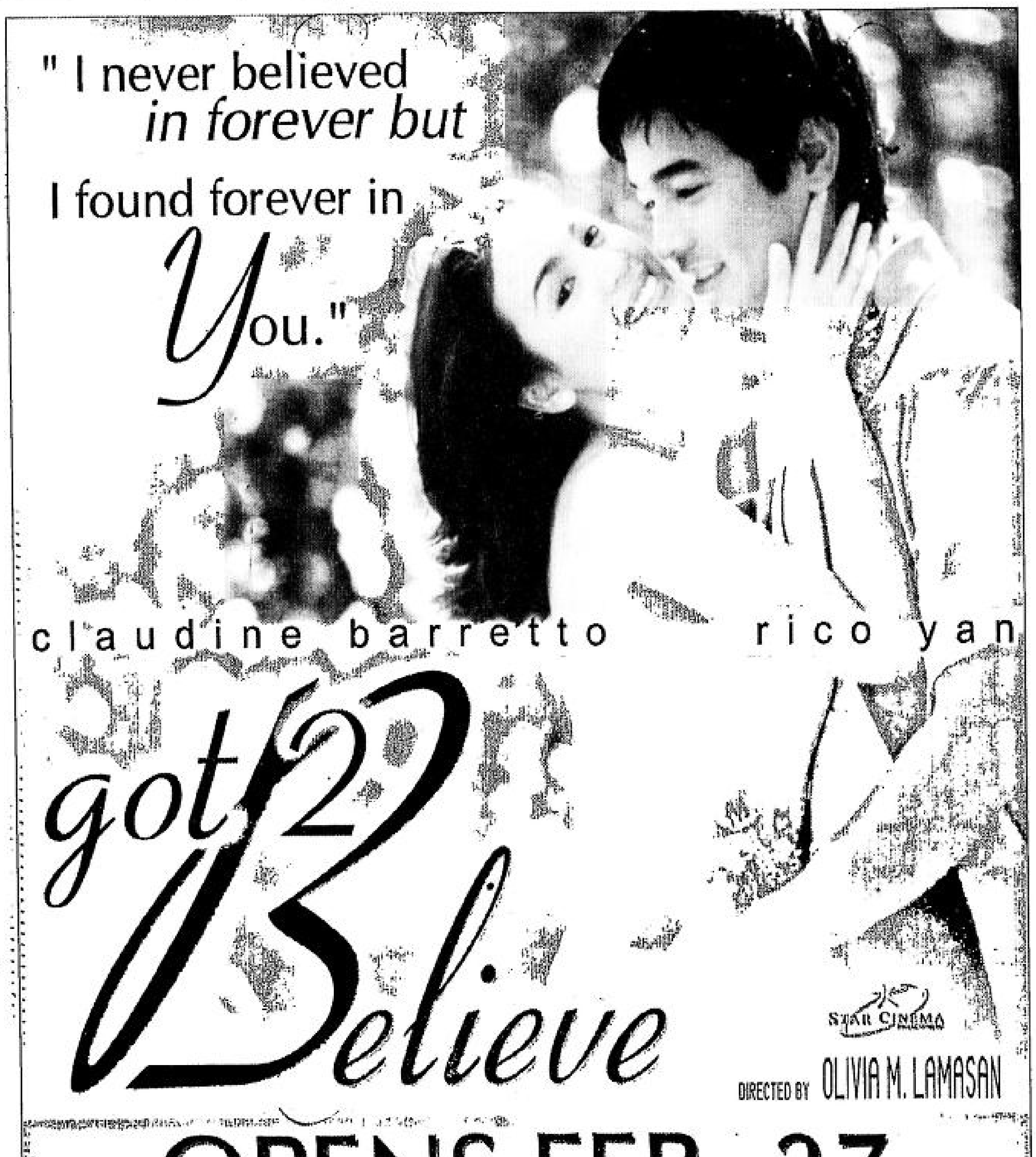
HE is BACK!

fernando poe, jr.

batas ng lansangan

MAVERICK

OPENS FEBRUARY 27



" I never believed
in forever but
I found forever in
You."

claudine barretto rico yan

got 2 Believe

STAR CINEMA

DIRECTED BY OLIVIA M. LAMASAN

OPENS FEB. 27

Private sector groups, gov't agencies lead alliance against piracy

PHILIPPINE Multi-Media System Inc. and its core product Dream Broadcadsting System, the first ever Direct-to-Home satellite TV service provider in the Philippines, spearheads an alliance to combat content piracy and illegal rebroadcasting.

The anti-piracy alliance was launched at the Dream Broadcast Center at the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ).

PMSI and Dream, with content providers and government agencies such as the National Telecommunications Commission, Intellectual Property Office and the National Bureau of Investigation, signed a manifesto declaring their commitment to combat piracy.

The signing of the manifesto was led by Cesar G. Reyes, PMSI chief operating officer, NTC Commissioner Eliseo Rio and lawyer Emma Francisco, director general of the Intellectual Property Office which is under the Office of the President.

During the presentation that preceded the manifesto signing, Reyes explained how PMSI and Dream have taken concrete steps on its own to combat content piracy and illegal broadcasting.

According to Reyes, PMSI has developed its own fingerprinting system in cooperation with Nokia. This would enable PMSI and Dream to identify which integrated receiver-decoder boxes are being used for content piracy and illegal broadcasts.

Reyes also said the PMSI has created an anti-piracy task force under Col. Byron Tabangay and has mobilized its members to make the rounds of provinces nationwide. The task force would be working closely with the content providers and government agencies.

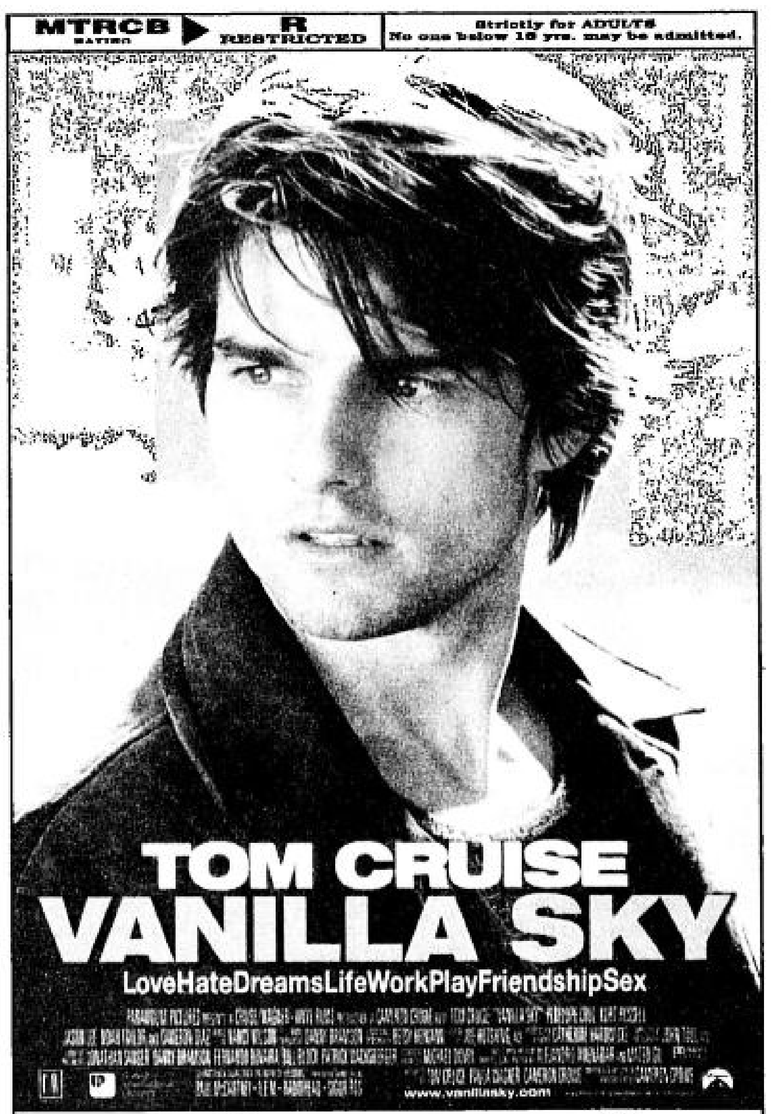
He expressed confidence that the firm commitment of the groups involved in the intensified campaign against content piracy would ensure its success. He also encouraged other sectors to actively support and participate in the effort to minimize, if not totally rid, the broadcast industry of such illegal and unscrupulous practice.

South Border show

CATCH South Border tonight at Virgin Café in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Get ready to groove to the group's hottest R&B hits and their signature songs like "Kahit Kailan," "Love of My Life" and "Seven Years" among others.

For inquiries, call 926-7379.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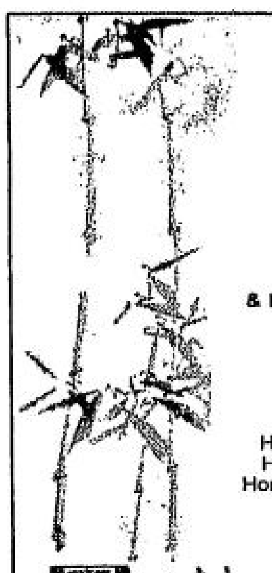

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ArtFilm, Greenbelt, Feb. 13 to 26
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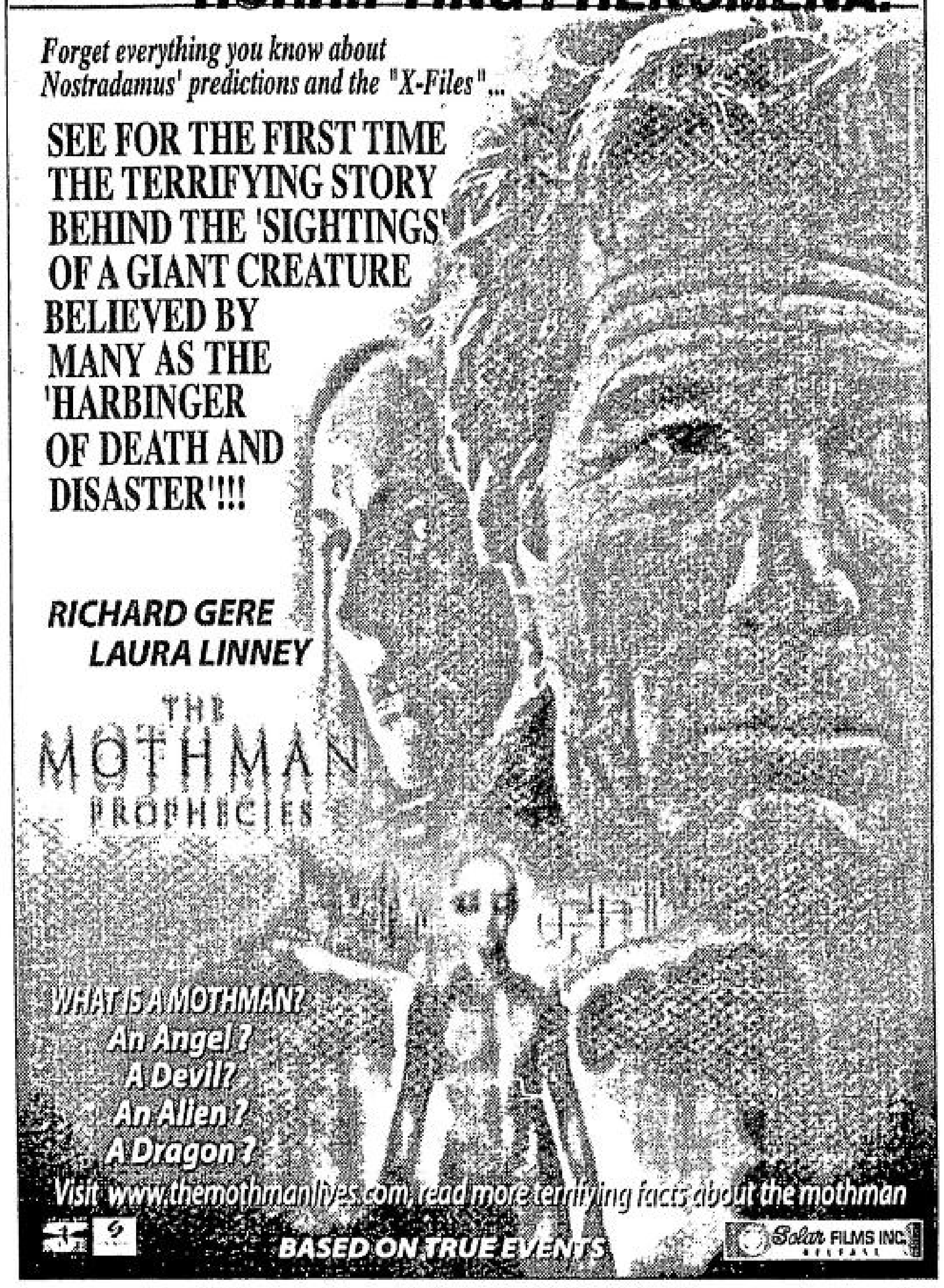
THE BRIDE W/ WHITE HAIR
A CLASSIC TALE OF SWORDS & SORCERY OF HONOR & OF LOVE
(Feb. 20 to 22)

Starring:
Brigitte Lin Ching Hsia
& Leslie Cheung (*star of Farewell My Concubine*)
Directed by: Ronny Yu

MULTI-WINNER!
Golden Horse 1993 - Best Adapted Script
Golden Horse 1993 - Best Song
Hong Kong Film Awards 1993 - Best Photography
Hong Kong Film Awards 1993 - Best Art Direction
Hong Kong Film Awards 1993 - Best Costume Design
Gerardmer Fantastica 1994 - Grand Prix

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18

AYALA CINEMAS
Art Film
NEXT ATTRACTION
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON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A Devil?
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RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ

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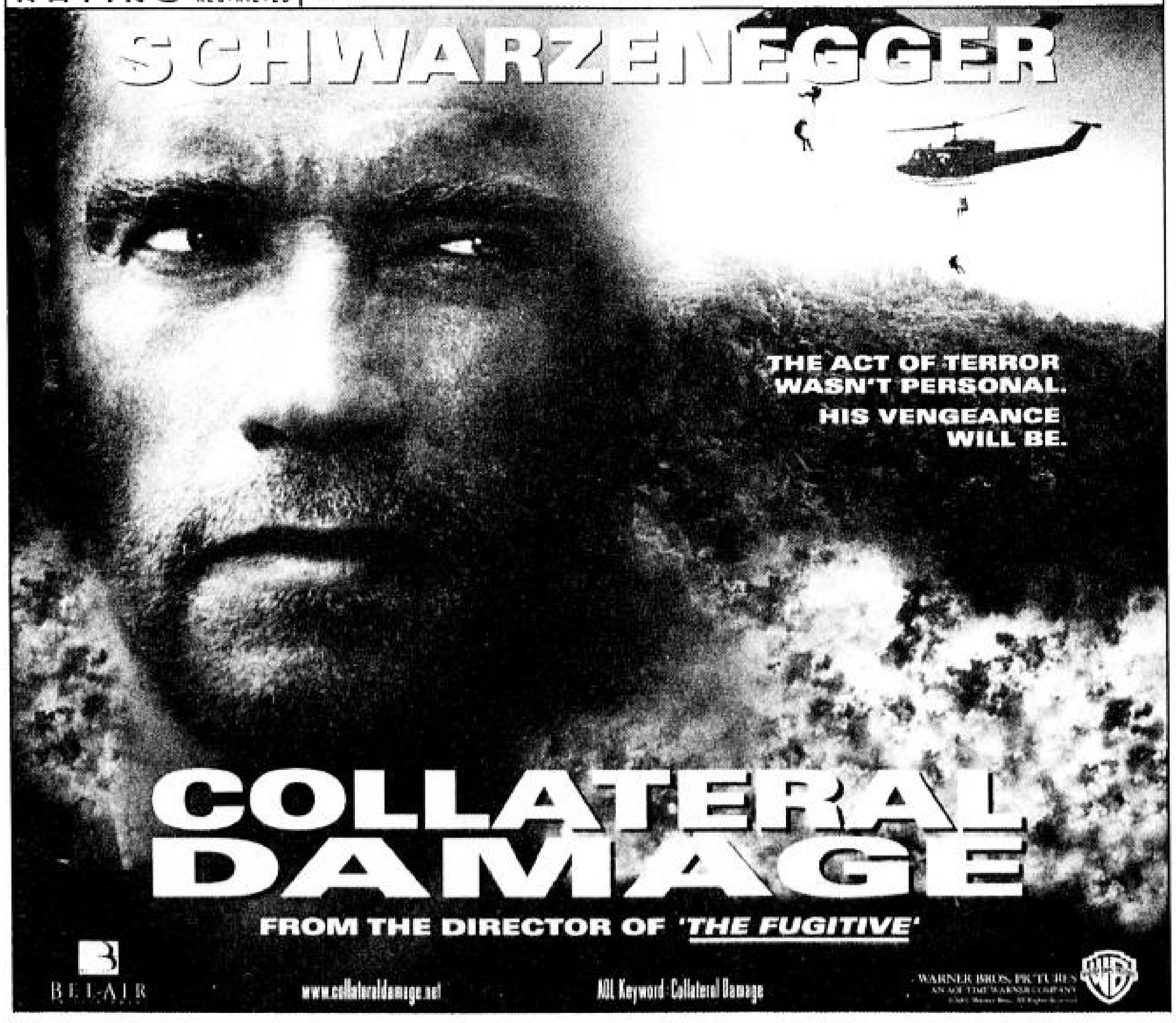
Manila

"An enjoyable touching experience."
-Billy Balbastro
Abante

"The perfect date movie..."
-Butch Francisco
Philippine Star

"Kilig lahat ..."
-Nora Calderon
Remate

A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon
Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
Featuring the theme song "Hanggang Ngayon" Music & Lyrics by Ogie Alcasid; performed by Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez, from the album "A BETTER MAN"
directed by YAM LARANAS
VIVA FILMS A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
NOW SHOWING IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE! | CATCH PBA LIVE! TUE, THU, SAT, SUN ON VIVA TV, IBC 13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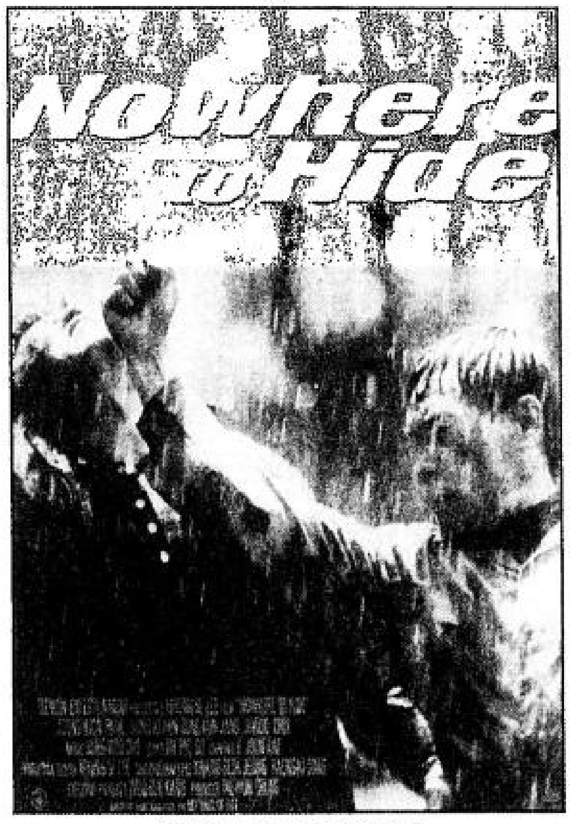
AYALA CINEMAS
Art Film
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present
The Exclusive Philippine Premiere
of
Nowhere to Hide

MTRCB Rating: Restricted (R)
Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admited.

"A lunatic derby of cuts & bravura movie making fired from the barrel of a gun... 'Hide' is all verve & vibes, a rollicking blend of exhibitionistic vitality."
- The New York Times

NOWHERE TO HIDE is a different kind of detective action film that overrides genre expectations. Action scenes are played out in unexpected places, and we see the essential element of cinema - movement itself - at work. The dynamic visual styles matched by an eclectical soundtrack that synthesizes past and current sensibilities. Written and directed by Lee Myung-Se, the story focuses on Woo, an eccentric detective whose search for a murderer takes him and his team of detectives into the heart of the city and out to the countryside on the trail of a most elusive man.

NOWHERE TO HIDE boasts a red-hot cast of Korea's top actors: international actor Park Joong-Hoon, veteran actor Ahn Sung-Ki, along with young talents Jang Dung-Kun and Choi Ji-Woo.

Only the recently relaxed censorship in Korea allowed for Lee to make a film with such violently portrayed policemen. Nonetheless, he says the police closely monitored the film while it was being made.

NOWHERE TO HIDE was featured at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival, and at the Museum of Modern Art/Film Society of Lincoln Centers 2000 New Directors/New Films festival in New York City.
Language: Korean with English Sub-titles

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Oscars give winners a big financial boost

WHY do movie people make such a big deal out of the annual Oscar awards? The attendant prestige is fine, and so is the major publicity value of being seen by over a billion viewers worldwide, but the bottom line is still money.

Last week on the Fox News channel, show biz analysts tried to parse Oscar's clout into its dollars-and-cents equivalent. Some eye-opening financial disclosures:

A victory at the Oscars can triple a star's talent fee. Take **Julia Roberts**—her Oscar for "Erin Brockovich" has made her the first woman to break into the exclusive club of

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

$20M-carners among Hollywood superstars.

In the not-so-distant past, the most that an actress earned per film was $12M, but Robert's good showing at the Oscars has helped her smash through Hollywood's version of the glass ceiling and made her "one of the boys."

True, a couple of male superstars (**Tom Hanks, Mel Gibson, Tom Cruise**) have been making more than $20M per film, but Roberts is still at the top of her world, and she has Oscar to thank for her lofty perch.

If stars benefit greatly from the Oscar, award-winning movies profit even more. Observers point to "Shakespeare in Love" as a spectacular example of Oscar's ability to boost even a small film's income.

The movie wasn't doing all that well at the box office before the Academy Awards, but its fortunes changed right after it won the top plum, and it went on to earn an additional $60M!

That's why producers believe that the financial benefits of winning an Oscar are "unlimited." No wonder they spend extra money to boost their movies' chances with the Academy jurors after they've been nominated.

Aside from attracting new viewers, an Oscar win also results in a lot of "repeat" business: moviegoers who have already seen a film get interested in viewing it again after it's won an Oscar, or even a nomination.

In addition, an Oscar nomination makes it possible for a "little" film to be seen by many more viewers than its original, limited market.

Take two nominees for Best Picture for 2001: "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings: cost $90M to make, while "In the Bedroom" was budgeted at a much more modest $1.7M—and yet, both movies will be viewed again by pretty much the same number of Oscar-influenced people who want to see all of the Best Picture nominees so that they can second-guess the Academy voters.

'The Worst Witch'

HARRY Potter's female counterpart, Mildred Hubble, is the heroine of Channel 2's new fantasy series, "The Worst Witch," telecast every Saturday at 9 a.m. Like Harry, Mildred is whisked off to a magical school to learn witchcraft.

Mildred (**Georgina Sherrington**) is one of the newest students in Miss Cakles' Academy for Witches. Despite being known among her fellow students as "the worst witch" because she keeps getting into trouble, Mildred is a good role model for children—she is smart, funny, creative, and very enthusiastic about studying.

'Good News'

TED Failon returns to television with "Good News," Channel 2's 30-minute look at the bright side of life in the Philippines, telecast every Saturday at 4 p.m.

Instead of harping on negative events, "Good News" focuses on stories of personal and institutional courage, corporate community-building and the good things that happen in the country.

The show is produced by the same team behind Failon's long-running public service program, "Hoy, Gising." It is replayed every Sunday at 5 p.m.

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After Legrand and Kuh comes Brickman for show with Sharon

ON THE heels of the successful Valentine concert of **Michel Legrand** at the PICC comes another renowned pianist-composer who will perform for two nights in the same venue.

On March 15 and 16, **Jim Brickman** will return to Manila. Brickman is the music genius behind such hits as "The Gift," "By Heart," "Your Love" and "Valentine."

Special guest in his show is **Sharon Cuneta**, who will perform his hits. Also guesting is Side A vocalist **Joey Generoso**.

Four years ago, Brickman also did a full-house concert at the PICC, with **Regine Velasquez**, **Ariel Rivera** and The CompanY as guests.

Brickman has written a number of songs for other local artists. For **Lea Salonga**'s Christmas album, he wrote a song, "Even Santa Fell in Love." For Ariel Rivera, he wrote "In a Lover's Eyes," a cut in Ariel's album, "Getting to Know."

For Sharon's newest album, "All I Ever Want," Brickman composed two tracks—the carrier single "Where's the Good in Goodbye" and "In Your Eyes," a duet with Chinese music superstar **Andy Lau**.

Very few instrumentalists make it big in the international music scene. Aside from sax artist **Kenny G**, Brickman has carved a niche for himself in the international pop arena.

Brickman has released a number of CDs, all distributed locally by BMG Records Pilipinas. The latest is "Simple Things." Prior to that, he had "My Romance: An Evening with Jim Brickman," a live recording of his concert at Salt Lake City's historic Capitol Theater.

The show brought together Brickman and his closest friends in the business such as **Donny Osmond, David Benoit, Tracy Silverman**, sax master **Dave Koz** and singer-actress **Olivia Newton-John**, with whom he wrote "Change of Heart."

First time in Manila

MEANWHILE, **Larusso**, the French singing sensation who recorded the catchy dance hit, "On ne S'aimera Plus Jamais," is set to visit Manila for the first time this week. She will hold a concert at the NBC Tent at The Fort on March 1.

Larusso's visit is part of the promo for her self-titled album from EMI Music, which contains 12 tracks. The carrier single, "Tous Unis (Give Me Love)," has been getting a lot of airplay even if the album hasn't been launched here yet.

Larusso rose to popularity last year when "On ne S'aimera Plus Jamais" topped the charts for several months. And even if it was in French, it became an instant hit in the Philippines. The album sold over two million copies worldwide.

Larusso describes herself as "a little redhead with green eyes and a big heart who lives and breathes music."

Larusso will also be in Cebu on Feb. 26 and 27 and in Davao on Feb. 28.

For free tickets to her Manila show, check out Larusso's new CD at all branches of Odyssey Music.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

BRICKMAN. Has written a number of songs for local artists

LARUSSO. French singing sensation

All-Legrand album

KUH Ledesma announced last week she would record an album of songs by **Michel Legrand**, after she shared the spotlight with the legendary composer in a two-night Valentine show at the PICC. But until Kuh secures a clearance from Legrand's management, she cannot start the album.

It turns out Legrand has given his nod to **Regine Velasquez** who is set to do an album of all-Legrand songs, including her favorite, "No Matter What Happens," from the musical film, "Yentl."

When Legrand was in town last week, Regine had a chance to meet him and finalize the deal. Regine even showed up at the PICC last Friday on the second night of Legrand's concert. She caught the last stretch of the show, after her own concert with **Brian McKnight** at the Big Dome.

Legrand promised he would return to Manila so he and Regine could record the album.

Inconsistent plot

I CAUGHT Regine's latest movie, "Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon," at the Alabang Town Center Sunday night. The film showed picturesque shots of Manila, which pleased Mayor **Lito Atienza** no end after he watched the premiere, but the plot was rather inconsistent.

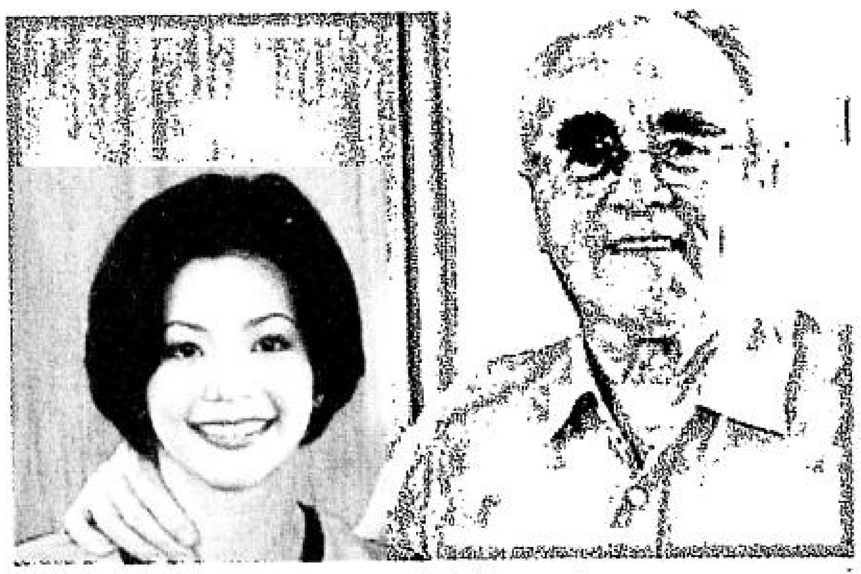
The love scene of Regine and her leading man **Richard Gomez** was not necessary. Perhaps the story would be better off without it. How can an ultra-reticent woman like Katherine (Regine) be easily seduced by a man (Richard)? But the love scene was obviously injected into the story to excite the viewers. The more perceptive viewers, however, found it expendable.

Thankfully, the movie has a really good soundtrack, bannered by **Ogie Alcasid**'s composition of the theme, which he and Regine recorded together. In some of the disappointing scenes, the music was enough to save the day for the film.

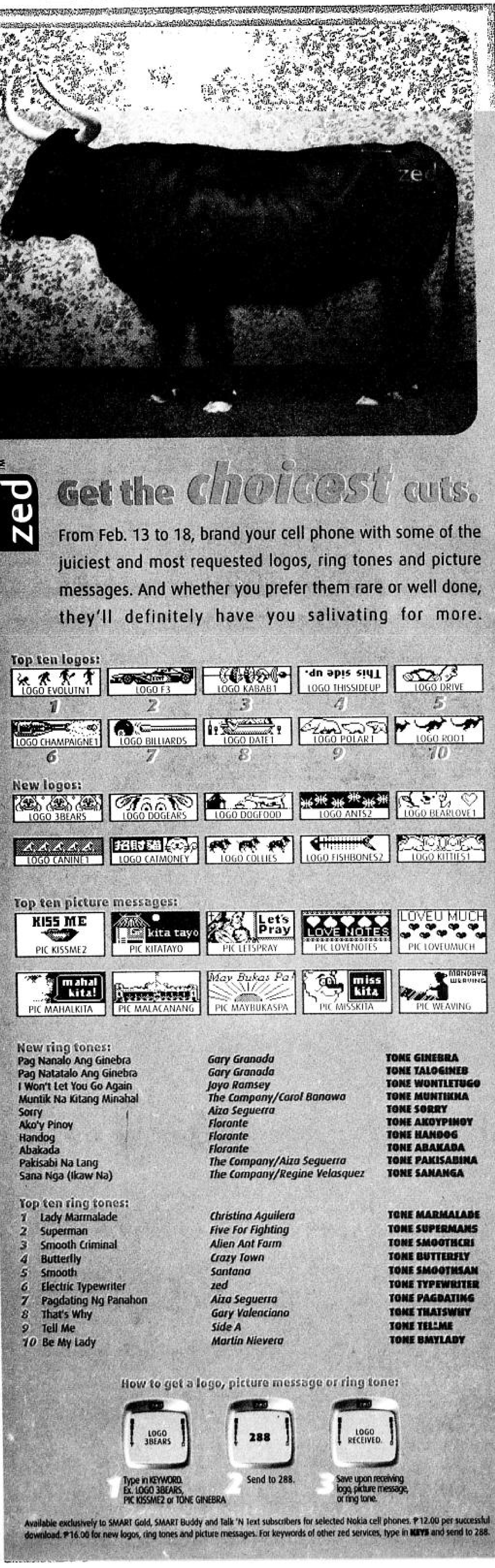
Regine and Richard undoubtedly have chemistry onscreen but, sad to say, their tandem was no match to the box office success of Regine's earlier partnerships with the likes of **Aga Muhlach** and **Robin Padilla**.

Richard's role as a golf instructor requires him to dress down, but he still looks downright handsome even when he's only in tees and denims.

Director **Yam Laranas** who earlier megged such films as "Balahibong Pusa" and "Radyo," tried to do a **Joyce Bernal** in "Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon." But perhaps a more experimental Yam can make another attempt at a light romance-drama and hopefully emerge a winner at the tills.



REGINE with legendary composer Michel Legrand.



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Muntik Na Kitang Minahal	*The Company/Carol Banawa*	**TONE MUNTIKNA**
Sorry	*Aiza Seguerra*	**TONE SORRY**
Ako'y Pinoy	*Florante*	**TONE AKOYPINOY**
Handog	*Florante*	**TONE HANDOG**
Abakada	*Florante*	**TONE ABAKADA**
Pakisabi Na Lang	*The Company/Aiza Seguerra*	**TONE PAKISABINA**
Sana Nga (Ikaw Na)	*The Company/Regine Velasquez*	**TONE SANANGA**

Top ten ring tones:

1	Lady Marmalade	*Christina Aguilera*	**TONE MARMALADE**
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3	Smooth Criminal	*Alien Ant Farm*	**TONE SMOOTHCRI**
4	Butterfly	*Crazy Town*	**TONE BUTTERFLY**
5	Smooth	*Santana*	**TONE SMOOTHSAN**
6	Electric Typewriter	*zed*	**TONE TYPEWRITER**
7	Pagdating Ng Panahon	*Aiza Seguerra*	**TONE PAGDATING**
8	That's Why	*Gary Valenciano*	**TONE THATSWHY**
9	Tell Me	*Side A*	**TONE TELLME**
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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Paris-based group urges RP to regulate money changers

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PARIS-BASED Financial Action Task Force has asked the Philippines to start regulating the country's more than 1,000 money changers as part of the government's campaign to curb money laundering.

Alberto Reyes, deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said that while regulatory agencies have recognized a need to place money-changers under closer government supervision, it has yet to determine whether these would be under the BSP, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Anti Money Laundering Council.

Reyes said the policy-making Monetary Board has ordered the central bank to study whether a provision in the BSP's charter would be sufficient to place money changers under BSP supervision.

"The FATF had issued a directive saying that money changers should be regulated because they could also be an outlet for money-laundering," he said.

The Philippines had passed an anti-money-laundering law last September but has yet to be taken out from the FATF's watchlist of countries found uncooperative when it comes to curbing money laundering.

Before the country liberalized its foreign exchange sector in 1983, money changers were under the regulation and supervision of the central bank. These dollar-changing companies where required to get a license and maintain a certain level of capital.

Reyes explained that after the foreign exchange deregulation and the government relaxed its capital controls, the central bank also stopped regulating the money changers although the BSP charter still provided it with the authority to regulate these dollar-changing units.

Discussions between the government and the Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of the Philippines are ongoing to determine the scope of regulating the money-changing companies.

Reyes said the group has more than 200 members operating mostly in the Binondo and Ermita areas.

"There seems to be a need to regulate the money-changers again but because of the volume and the nature of the requirement, we may have to start with a simple reporting and monitoring process," he said.

The BSP official pointed out that the central bank was alerted to the possibility that money changers could be an outlet for money laundering in October last year when somebody attempted to smuggle $20 million out of the country through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

On the banking side, the BSP official said the central bank has required banks to submit and implement a know-your-customer model. "We will include as part of the examination if a bank is adhering to the model. Sanctions and fines would be imposed on erring banks," he said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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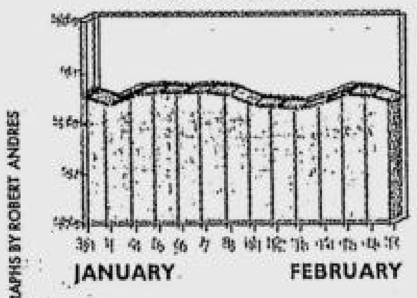


GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.305 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 19, 2002

¥133.52 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 19, 2002

GOLD: $296.25/297.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 19, 2002

STOCK MARKET

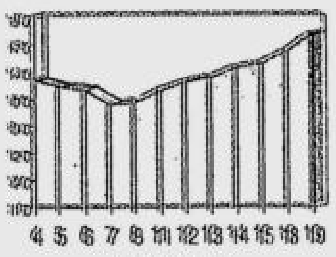
Stocks hit 8-month high

SHARES ended sharply higher yesterday, with the main index breaking its 1,450-point immediate resistance to post a new eight-month closing high, as the continuing decline in interest rates buoyed hopes of better economic prospects this year, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 30.24 points, or 2.1 percent, at 1,469.07, its highest closing level since June 18, 2001 when it finished at 1,470.92. Monday, the index rose

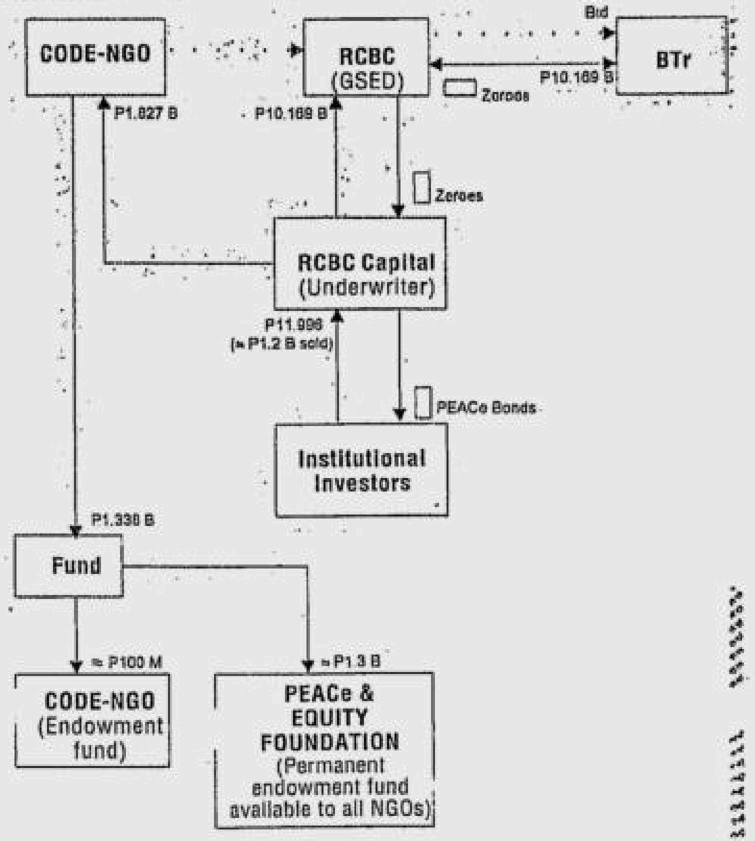
STOCKS/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

CODE-NGO PEACe Bonds Transaction



CODE-NGO's persistence prompted bond issuance

By Margarita H. Debuque

(Second of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE BUREAU of Treasury claims it had been signaling its apprehension over an exclusive sale of the 10-year zero coupon bonds from the very beginning. This apparently did not register clearly with the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), as the group still pursued negotiations hopeful that the bureau would eventually agree to a negotiated deal.

From March until May last year, CODE-NGO leaders had their

CODE-NGO/ B4

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30 seen vying for 15 PSE seats

By Doris C. Dumlao

YUCHENGCO

COYIUTO

AT LEAST 12 brokers and 18 non-brokers have been nominated to the 15-member board of the Philippine Stock Exchange, which will be holding its elections on March 9.

The candidates, mostly nominees of opposing slates led by Robert Coyiuto and Vivian Yuchengco, are given until March 1 to accept or decline the nomination. Coyiuto and Yuchengco are both aspiring for the PSE chairmanship.

Seven out of the 15 board seats are allotted to brokers while eight are reserved for non-brokers. This is in compliance with a provision of the Securities and Regulation Code, which states that non-brokers should control the majority of the PSE board.

Each of the party will have two ballots—one for the broker-candidates and the other for the non-broker candidates.

The broker-candidates under the Coyiuto slate are: Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities (reelectionist); Ramon "Raymond" Garcia Jr. of Diversified Financial Network or DFNN; Federico Lim of Belson Securities; Harry Liu of Summit Securities (reelectionist), and Edwin Luy of Triton Securities.

First Resources Management and Securities Corp.'s Yuchengco, for her part, is running with three other broker candidates: Alicia Arroyo of RCBC Securities, Marita Limlingan of Regina Capital and Jojo Madrid of Philippine Equity Partners.

Nominated as independent broker-candidates are Senen Matoto of BPI Securities and Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialist.

Coyiuto's slate supports eight non-broker candidates: former PSE president Ramon T. Garcia, incumbent PSE president Ernest Leung, reelectionists Joaquin Bernas of the Ateneo School of Law, Mario Camacho, economist Cayetano Paderanga, former Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme, former Philippine National Bank president Peter Favila and former Customs Commissioner Tomas Apacible.

Yuchengco's party, for its part, has nominated all incumbent PSE directors, except Patricio Lim and accounting guru Washington Sycip. The party, in lieu of Lim and Sycip, nominated diplomat Consuelo Madrigal and former Shell executive Oscar Reyes.

This means that the Coyiuto and Yuchengco camps have adopted four common candidates (Leung, Paderanga, Camacho and Bernas). The other two incumbent directors renominated by Yuchengco are: Metro Pacific Corp. chair and CEO Manuel Pangilinan and ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III.

Also nominated for the non-broker seats in the PSE board were former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Gabriel Singson and former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Rosario Lopez.

In the meantime, Regina Capital's Limlingan is supporting five names for the non-broker positions: former Trade Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara, former Finance Secretary and now Asian Institute for Management president Roberto de Ocampo, Economic Intelligence Unit president Peter Wallace and former Petron Corp. president Monico Jacob. She also supported Favila.

When the PSE converted itself into a stock corporation from a non-stock entity on Aug. 8 last year, it distributed 50,000 shares to each of its 184 member-brokers, whether active or inactive. There are currently 134 active PSE member-brokers.

Pre-need insurance firms urged to go public

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is urging pre-need companies to raise their capital by listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, in a recent forum with members of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc., pointed out that initial public offerings would allow pre-need companies to expand and meet the SEC's minimum capital requirement of P100 million by the end-April deadline.

At present, only 15 of the country's 50 pre-need companies registered with the SEC have met the P100 million paid-up capital requirement.

Not one of the 50 pre-need companies is listed.

Bautista said that the SEC would require companies that could not meet the capital requirement until end-April to submit their capital build-up plans before the SEC will consider any request for exemption from the requirement.

Early last year, the SEC barred pre-need companies with paid-up capital of less than P26 million from selling pre-need plans.

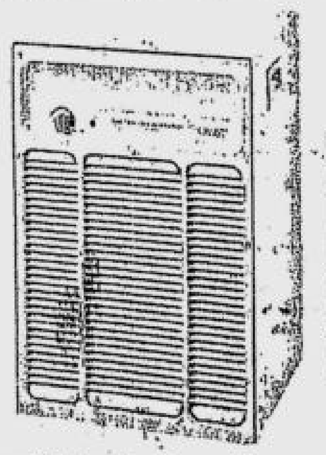
The P100-million capital requirement was designed to ensure the stability of pre-need insurance companies and make them financially viable even in times of economic fluctuations.

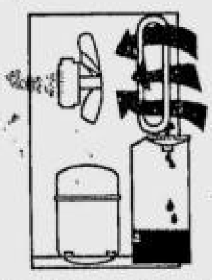
The pre-need industry had suffered a credibility crisis following the failure of several pre-need insurance companies. The SEC moved to address the causes of the failure by imposing stricter rules.

Last year the pre-need industry reported P37 billion in sales, slightly up from the P36 billion in 2000.

Total number of plans sold for the year amounted to 640,700 or 10.4 percent more than the previous year.

The pre-need industry contributes to the acceleration of the country's economic development by pooling funds and investing them in various areas of productive economic and business activities.





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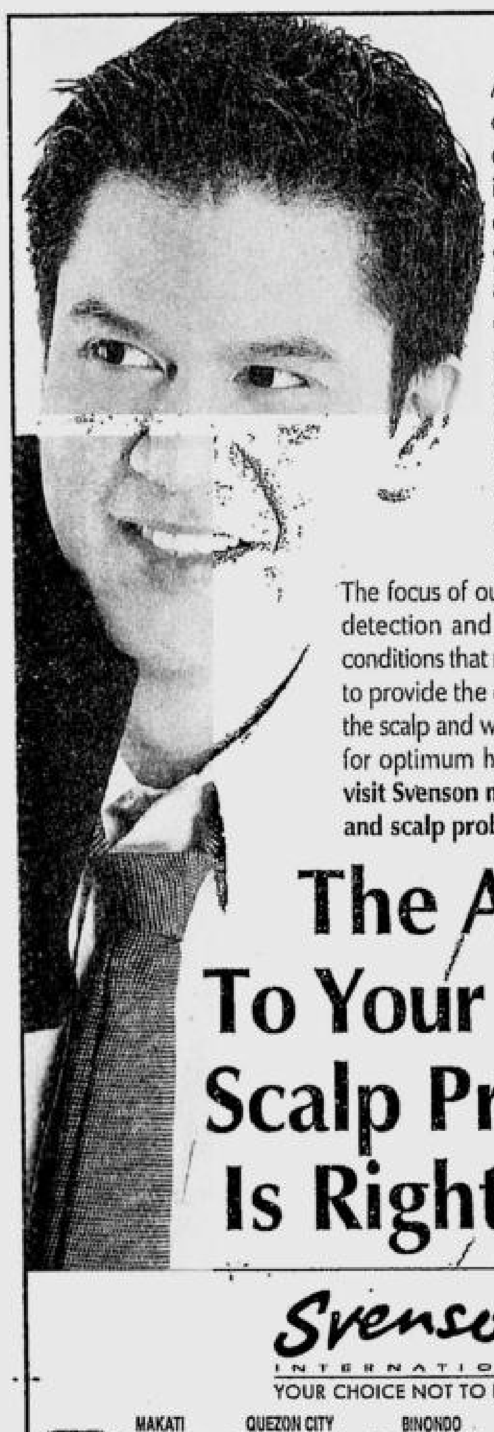

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817-2260 817-2194	372-6631 372-6632	243-0128 244-8913	842-1389 842-4181	032-2340851 032-2340853

MON.-FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

CURRENCIES

Feb-19-2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.144558	1.000000	51.2210
Japan	Yen	0.008633	0.007543	0.3864
United Kingdom	Pound	1.638663	1.431700	73.3331
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146927	0.128370	6.5752
Switzerland	Franc	0.674578	0.589379	30.1886
Canada	Dollar	0.720301	0.629327	32.2348
Singapore	Dollar	0.627499	0.548246	28.0817
Australia	Dollar	0.591503	0.516796	26.4708
Bahrain	Dinar	3.036123	2.652661	135.8719
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306032	0.267380	13.6955
Brunei	Dollar	0.628187	0.548847	28.1125
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026270	0.022952	1.1756
UAE	Dirham	0.311699	0.272331	13.9491
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000766	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.873700	44.7518
Brazil	Real	0.472177	0.412541	21.1308
Denmark	Kroner	0.134330	0.117364	6.0115
India	Rupee	0.023550	0.020576	1.0539
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.301278	0.263227	13.4828
Mexico	New Peso	0.126470	0.110497	5.6598
New Zealand	Dollar	0.483343	0.422297	21.6305
Norway	Kroner	0.128914	0.112632	5.7691
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019107	0.016694	0.8551
South Africa	Rand	0.100251	0.087589	4.4864
Sweden	Kroner	0.108907	0.095152	4.8738
Syria	Pound	0.022311	0.019493	0.9985
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032701	0.028571	1.4634
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001272	0.001111	0.0569

Debt problems?
You're not alone.

All business owners run into financial crisis from time to time. Revenue is down, cash flow is poor, overhead is barely sustainable, and debt servicing is at an all time high. The decisions made during these stressful times will have catastrophic and irreversible effects on one's business as well as one's personal life. During these times it's best to consult with experts, who fully understand the situation and who have assisted others find solutions to their debt problems.

For this purpose, many businesses have turned to ARBITRAGE FSI for assistance. ARBITRAGE FSI is a private financial advisory firm established to provide comprehensive corporate finance services to Philippine-based companies. At present, the debt management team handles over 5 billion pesos in corporate debt, and has been successful in assisting companies overcome their debt problems.

If you're facing problems associated with your debt, consult a professional who will stand by you and who will guide you through the process of recovery.

"Trusted Financial Advisors for Difficult Transactions."

ARBITRAGE
FSI

6th Floor Richmonde Corporate Plaza, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
687-02-50/ 687-02-51/ 687-29-68

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, February 19, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	17,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68.5	70	68	69.5	1,138,000
China Banking Corp.	570	580	570	580	5,500
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	4,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31.5	33.5	31.5	33.5	2,681,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	215	213	215	394,720
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	29,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	20	19	20	193,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.5	22.75	20.75	22.25	744,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	626,000
First Abacus Financial	-	-	-	-	-
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	610,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	-	-	-	-	-
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1350	1350	1,420
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	120,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1035	1030	1035	1,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32.5	32	32	20,100
Diversified Fin. Network	4	4.55	4	4.55	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.72	0.68	0.68	20,530,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	810	800	810	52,620
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0875	0.095	0.075	0.085	255,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	110,000
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Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	525	510	515	210,610
Ivantage Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.61	3,320,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	151,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	33	30.5	31.5	942,400
Manila Electric Co. B	47	51.5	47	51	2,949,700
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.14	2.02	2.04	20,106,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.2	12,343,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	8,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	100,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.41	0.36	0.38	2,480,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	13,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.7	208,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.66	0.71	0.66	0.71	670,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.2	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.25	14.25	13.5	13.75	193,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	25.5	24	24.75	2,117,800
RFM Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.4	1,300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49.5	49.5	49	49	252,500
San Miguel Corp. B	66	67.5	66	67.5	313,300
Universal Robina Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	9,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.71	0.69	0.71	100,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7.2	7	7.2	11,355,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.94	2	1.94	1.98	1,268,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.86	510,000
APC Group Inc.	0.135	0.195	0.135	0.19	1,850,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	243,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	910,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	340,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	900,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.98	0.93	0.96	53,400,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0775	0.08	0.0775	0.08	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	2,550,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.115	0.12	11,230,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	2,116,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.05	3.1	3	3	15,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31.5	34	31.5	33.5	2,003,000
Ionics Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	43,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	2.04	1.9	2	745,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.9	11,600,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.4	0.41	18,590,000
Music Corp. N	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.39	15,360,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,390,000
Solid Group Inc. S	0.44 .45	43		43	2,690,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	4,270,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	320,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	1,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0 0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	7,570,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	166,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.57	0.52	0.56	80,410,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	870,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	110,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,140,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.28	0.28	920,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	18,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.2	7	7.1	22,704,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	6,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.55	0.57	20,980,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	16,340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.46	2.38	2.38	15,513,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.37	0.42	10,040,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,710,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.22	1.12	1.2	1,764,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.4	28,689,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.095	0 0975	0.09	0.09	7,600,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.4	21,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.044	0.042	0.044	85,700,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	940,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	2,140,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	153,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	6,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	920,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	410,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	15,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	170,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	7,100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.26	310,000

DISCLOSURES

A.SORIANO Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 17 with record date on March 11.

* * *

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 15 to May 3.

* * *

LA Tondeña Distillers Inc. will hold its regular stockholders' meeting on April 24, 2 p.m. at the SMC-HOC Cafeteria. Record date is on March 8.

* * *

THE BOARD of **EEI Corp.** has set for March 31 its record date in determining the stockholders who will be entitled to notice of and to vote on the May 14 annual stockholders' meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Sinophil Corp.** were Rogelio Cabunag, Manuel Gana, Antonio Henson, Ricardo Leong, Willy Ocier, Caesar Poblador, Hans Sy, A. Bayani Tan, Edmundo Tan, Jerry Tiu and Alfredo Benitez. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Stocks . . .

From page B1

1.6 percent. Turnover reached P1.6 billion, the largest since posting P2.46 billion worth of trades on Jan. 28, 2002.

Yesterday's rise brings the total gain of the index to 9.6 percent since Feb. 8.

"The interest rate decline that we've seen recently has certainly helped trigger the run-up," said BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities research head Edgar Bancod.

Traders said the declining interest rates indicate the risk premium placed on an emerging market like the Philippines is easing.

Investors hope the lower interest rates will eventually translate to improved loan demand as business activity picks up, traders said. *AP, Reuters*

30 seen vying for 15 PSE seats

By Doris C. Dumlao

AT LEAST 12 brokers and 18 non-brokers have been nominated to the 15-member board of the Philippine Stock Exchange, which will be holding its elections on March 9.

The candidates, mostly nominees of opposing slates led by Robert Coyiuto and Vivian Yuchengco, are given until March 1 to accept or decline the nomination. Coyiuto and Yuchengco are both aspiring for the PSE chairmanship.

Seven out of the 15 board seats are allotted to brokers while eight are reserved for non-brokers. This is in compliance with a provision of the Securities and Regulation Code, which states that non-brokers should control the majority of the PSE board.

Each of the party will have two ballots—one for the broker-candidates and the other for the non-broker candidates.

The broker-candidates under the Coyiuto slate are: Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities (reelectionist); Ramon "Raymond" Garcia Jr. of Diversified Financial Network or DFNN; Federico Lim of Belson Securities; Harry Liu of Summit Securities (reelectionist), and Edwin Luy of Triton Securities.

YUCHENGCO

COYIUTO

First Resources Management and Securities Corp.'s Yuchengco, for her part, is running with three other broker candidates: Alicia Arroyo of RCBC Securities, Marita Limlingan of Regina Capital and Jojo Madrid of Philippine Equity Partners.

Nominated as independent broker-candidates are Senen Matoto of BPI Securities and Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialist.

Coyiuto's slate supports eight non-broker candidates: former PSE president Ramon T. Garcia, incumbent PSE president Ernest Leung, reelectionists Joaquin Bernas of the Ateneo School of Law, Mario Camacho, economist Cayetano Paderanga, former Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme, former Philippine National Bank president Peter Favila and former Customs Commissioner Tomas Apacible.

Yuchengco's party, for its part, has nominated all incumbent PSE directors, except Patricio Lim and accounting guru Washington Sycip. The party, in lieu of Lim and Sycip, nominated diplomat Consuelo Madrigal and former Shell executive Oscar Reyes.

This means that the Coyiuto and Yuchengco camps have adopted four common candidates (Leung, Paderanga, Camacho and Bernas). The other two incumbent directors renominated by Yuchengco are: Metro Pacific Corp. chair and CEO Manuel Pangilinan and ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III.

Also nominated for the non-broker seats in the PSE board were former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Gabriel Singson and former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Rosario Lopez.

In the meantime, Regina Capital's Limlingan is supporting five names for the non-broker positions: former Trade Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara, former Finance Secretary and now Asian Institute for Management president Roberto de Ocampo, Economic Intelligence Unit president Peter Wallace and former Petron Corp. president Monico Jacob. She also supported Favila.

When the PSE converted itself into a stock corporation from a non-stock entity on Aug. 8 last year, it distributed 50,000 shares to each of its 184 member-brokers, whether active or inactive. There are currently 134 active PSE member-brokers.

Pre-need insurance firms urged to go public

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is urging pre-need companies to raise their capital by listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, in a recent forum with members of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc., pointed out that initial public offerings would allow pre-need companies to expand and meet the SEC's minimum capital requirement of P100 million by the end-April deadline.

At present, only 15 of the country's 50 pre-need companies registered with the SEC have met the P100 million paid-up capital requirement.

Not one of the 50 pre-need companies is listed.

Bautista said that the SEC would require companies that could not meet the capital requirement until end-April to submit their capital build-up plans before the SEC will consider any request for exemption from the requirement.

Early last year, the SEC barred pre-need companies with paid-up capital of less than P26 million from selling pre-need plans.

The P100-million capital requirement was designed to ensure the stability of pre-need insurance companies and make them financially viable even in times of economic fluctuations.

The pre-need industry had suffered a credibility crisis following the failure of several pre-need insurance companies. The SEC moved to address the causes of the failure by imposing stricter rules.

Last year the pre-need industry reported P37 billion in sales, slightly up from the P36 billion in 2000.

Total number of plans sold for the year amounted to 640,700 or 10.4 percent more than the previous year.

The pre-need industry contributes to the acceleration of the country's economic development by pooling funds and investing them in various areas of productive economic and business activities.

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Asian Terminals Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.2	12,343,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	8,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	100,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.41	0.36	0.38	2,480,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	13,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.7	208,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.66	0.71	0.66	0.71	670,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.2	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.25	14.25	13.5	13.75	193,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	25.5	24	24.75	2,117,800
RFM Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.4	1,300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49.5	49.5	49	49	252,500
San Miguel Corp. B	66	67.5	66	67.5	313,300
Universal Robina Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	9,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.71	0.69	0.71	100,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7.2	7	7.2	11,355,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.94	2	1.94	1.98	1,268,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.86	510,000
APC Group Inc.	0.135	0.195	0.135	0.19	1,850,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	243,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	910,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	340,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	900,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.98	0.93	0.96	53,400,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0775	0.08	0.0775	0.08	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	2,550,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.115	0.12	11,230,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	2,116,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.05	3.1	3	3	15,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31.5	34	31.5	33.5	2,003,000
Ionics Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	43,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	2.04	1.9	2	745,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.9	11,600,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.4	0.41	18,590,000
Music Corp. N	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.39	15,360,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,390,000
Solid Group Inc. S	0.44 .45		43	43	2,690,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	4,270,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	320,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	1,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	7,570,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	166,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.57	0.52	0.56	80,410,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	870,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	110,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,140,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.28	0.28	920,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	18,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.2	7	7.1	22,704,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	6,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.55	0.57	20,980,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	16,340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.46	2.38	2.38	15,513,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.37	0.42	10,040,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,710,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.22	1.12	1.2	1,764,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.4	28,689,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.095	0.0975	0.09	0.09	7,600,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.4	21,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.044	0.042	0.044	85,700,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	940,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	2,140,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	153,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	6,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	920,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	410,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	15,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	170,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	7,100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.26	310,000

DISCLOSURES

A.SORIANO Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 17 with record date on March 11.

• • •

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 15 to May 3.

• • •

LA Tondeña Distillers Inc. will hold its regular stockholders' meeting on April 24, 2 p.m. at the SMC-HOC Cafeteria. Record date is on March 8.

• • •

THE BOARD of **EEI Corp.** has set for March 31 its record date in determining the stockholders who will be entitled to notice of and to vote on the May 14 annual stockholders' meeting.

• • •

ELECTED directors of **Sinophil Corp.** were Rogelio Cabunag, Manuel Gana, Antonio Henson, Ricardo Leong, Willy Ocier, Caesar Poblador, Hans Sy, A. Bayani Tan, Edmundo Tan, Jerry Tiu and Alfredo Benitez. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Stocks . . .

From page B1

1.6 percent. Turnover reached P1.6 billion, the largest since posting P2.46 billion worth of trades on Jan. 28, 2002.

Yesterday's rise brings the total gain of the index to 9.6 percent since Feb. 8.

"The interest rate decline that we've seen recently has certainly helped trigger the run-up," said BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities research head Edgar Bancod.

Traders said the declining interest rates indicate the risk premium placed on an emerging market like the Philippines is easing.

Investors hope the lower interest rates will eventually translate to improved loan demand as business activity picks up, traders said. *AP, Reuters*

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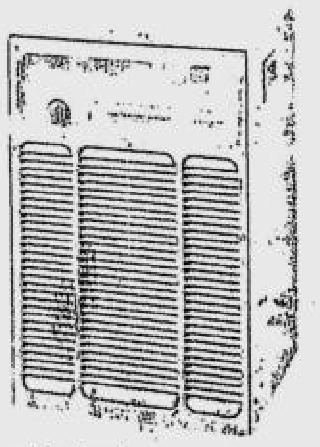

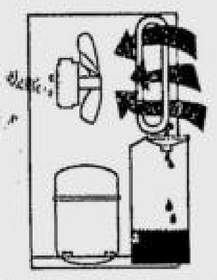

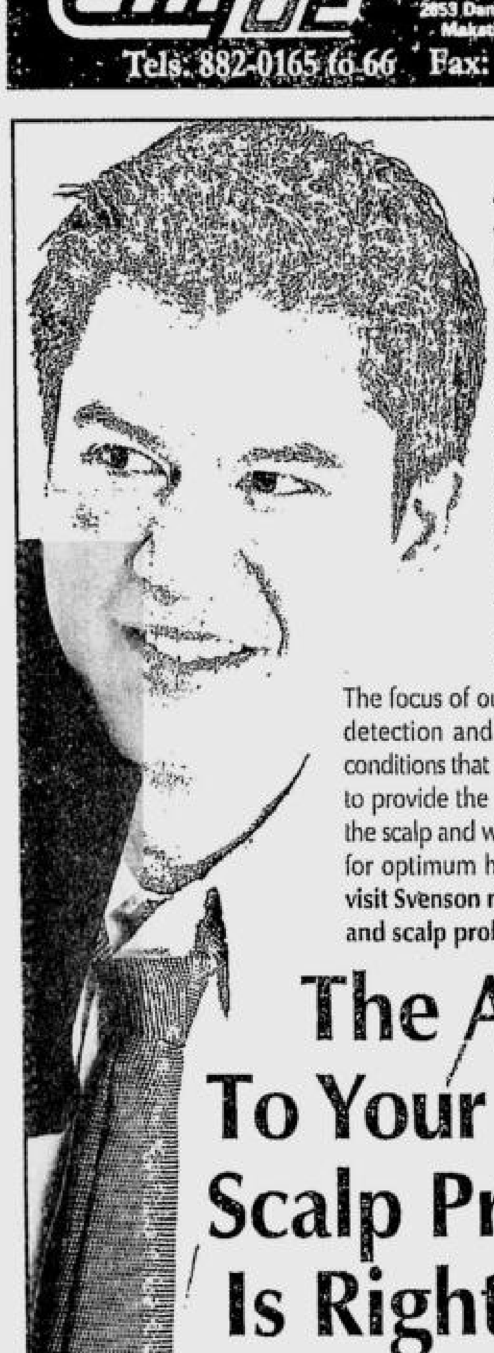

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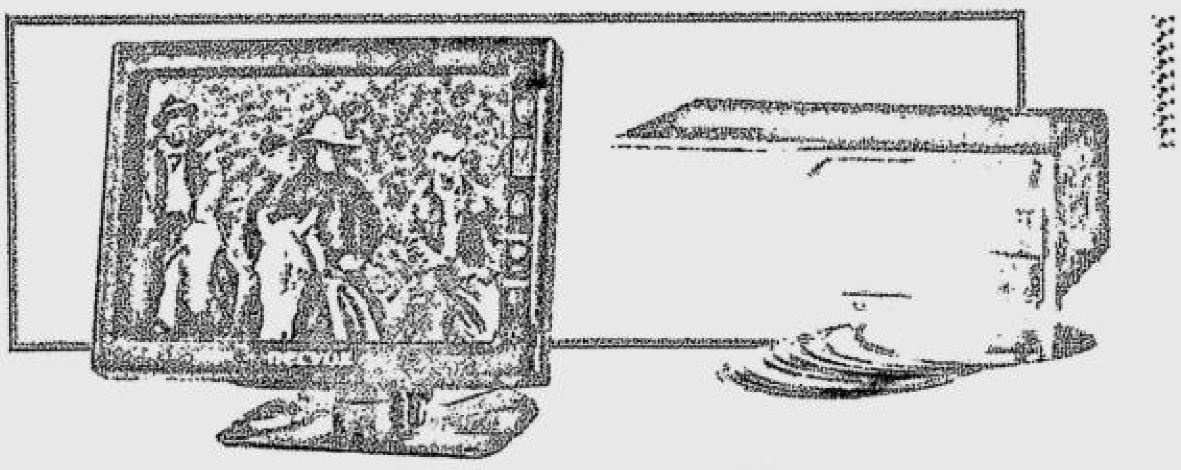

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Merchandise trade surplus down 61% in '01

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY last year registered a trade surplus of $2.6 billion, or 61 percent lower than the year-ago level of $6.69 billion.

The decline was attributed to the global economic slowdown that resulted in the worst contraction in the country's merchandise exports since 1985.

The National Statistics Office yesterday said that the country's import bill fell by 5.9 percent last year to $29.55 billion as earnings from exports, the bulk of which was dependent on imports, likewise shrunk by 15.6 percent to $32.15 billion.

Analysts said the country's imports seemed to have already bottomed out in December when the year-on-year contraction was contained at 4.2 percent, a big improvement from the 23.6 percent decline in November.

"An improvement in imports will come first before we see a turnaround in exports. For this year, there will be a slight recovery in export volume on expectation that the US economy will rebound," AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said.

Vistan said he was expecting a 4-percent growth in export receipts this year, a reversal of the 15.6-percent drop last year.

He noted that the slowdown in import contraction in December could be due to the resurgence of consumer and investor confidence in the country, which was also reflected in the strong rebound in the local stock market in recent months.

As the bulk of the country's imports consisted of capital goods and raw materials for exports, Vistan said a turnaround in imports would allow exports to pick up starting the second quarter of this year.

DBS Vickers Securities analyst Jomar Lacson said the slower import contraction in December was very healthy but said a bottoming out would materialize only if the first quarter figures would remain favorable.

For the month of December alone, the country's balance of trade surplus stood at $503 million, as the 24.3-percent decline in export receipts during the year to $2.64 billion was partly offset by the 4.2 percent slowdown in imports to $2.14 billion.

Capital goods that include the combination of telecommunications equipment and machinery accounted for 42 percent of the total import bill in December. The bill dropped by 1.8 percent.

In the same month, payments for electronics and components, alone, which accounted for more than 18 percent of the bill, dropped by 7.1 percent.

Purchases of telecommunications equipment and electrical machinery accounted for 10 percent. Imports of these products dropped by 15.4 percent.

Raw materials and intermediate goods accounted for 37 percent of the total bill even as the importation of these products went down by 5.2 percent.

Purchases of mineral fuel and lubricant as well as consumer goods likewise declined by 12.6 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Japan and the United States remained the country's biggest source of imports, accounting for 22 percent and 18.3 percent respectively.

CODE-NGO's persistence prompted bond issuance

From page B1

hands full securing tax rulings and reserve eligibilities prescribed by their financial partners in order to close the deal before market conditions substantially change. Letters were immediately sent to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) seeking clarification on the tax treatment of the PEACe bonds and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) asking that the instruments be made eligible as liquidity reserves and as compliance for the agri-agra law. Prior to presenting its proposal to the BTr, the NGO had already sent three formal request letters to the central bank governor and spoken about the scheme to at least one Monetary Board member.

Danilo Songco, CODE-NGO's national coordinator, narrated that it was a particularly grueling time for the organization as they were determined to breach their P1-billion funding target for propoor projects. They were preparing briefs left and right, he said, and hiring corporate lawyers and tax experts just to meet the bureaucracy's requirements.

He does not deny the fact that the group lobbied for the PEACe bond's special eligibilities and neither does he see any reason why this should be seen as shameful. "There's nothing wrong with lobbying if it's for a good cause," he said. "And besides, we were informed by Treasury when we presented this project that we should work for it (the bond's special features) ourselves."

With their apparent knack for doing business with the government, responses from its various arms already started coming in by the end of May.

The BIR ruled on May 31 that the PEACe bonds, while not wholly free of income taxes, shall be exempt from capital gains tax since these have a maturity of more than five years and the 20-percent final withholding tax since the instruments will be sold to only one investor and hence not considered as deposit substitutes.

Reserve eligibility

A week after, the Monetary Board through a resolution also approved CODE-NGO's request for eligibility as secondary reserves though not the granting of eligibility for agri-agra compliance purposes. Even though liquidity reserves should theoretically comprise near-cash instruments in order to control money supply, a board member said such concessions were made in the past if the bonds in question were for socially desirable ends, for instance, in the case of issues that funded socialized housing. BSP officials said the granting of eligibilities, which could lower the government's borrowing cost, was conditional on the endorsement of BTr.

While the Treasury had not been very keen on negotiating the sale of 10-year zero coupon bonds with CODE-NGO, it did not exactly refrain itself from negotiations either. Nor did it throw the entire proposal out the window.

On June 4, the chair of the Commission on Audit gave the NGO its ruling on how the financial instrument will be booked in the government's accounting system. This was done verbally, however, as a written opinion can only be given upon the request of a government agency. The BTr, worried that the sale of the financial instrument might lead to a ballooning deficit, sent such a letter on June 13 and got a reply seven days later in which the COA clarified that the debt will not be booked as a one-time expense but on a yearly basis.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said they were also interested in the details of issuing the 10-year zero coupon bonds as they had similarly been contemplating this particular mode of borrowing. Proposals for such instruments had been streaming in since March, he reported, implying a sizeable demand from market players. These proposals were submitted by such institutions as First Metro Investment Corp. (FIMC), Security Bank and iBank.

Zero coupons

By the middle of August last year, a month after it formally recommended against a negotiated sale with CODE-NGO, the BTr submitted to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho its own proposal to include zero coupons in the government's borrowing program. A week earlier, on Aug. 8, the treasury wrote the BIR on its own behalf clarifying the tax treatment of the bonds that were supposedly meant to be issued to CODE-NGO, now more known as PEACe bonds.

The letter, apparently, was meant to check if the special features of the issue, which the bureau believes can lower the government's borrowing cost, will still be valid even under an auction. "We wrote that letter because now we are the issuer of the bond, now we are going to issue a 10-year zero coupon invoking the 19-lender count through an auction," Edeza said. "So we had to go to the BIR for due diligence."

Sources say the Treasury was pressured to negotiate with the group not exactly because of political influence from top government officials but by the group's sheer persistence. These same sources allege that the NGO was not shy to resort to name-dropping whenever the situation called for it, even emphasizing that the funds raised from the sale can contribute to President Macapagal-Arroyo's own poverty alleviation campaign.

It was in June 2001 when the group had fulfilled all the requirements, secured all the rulings and eligibilities, and gone back to the Treasury to present their accomplishments, that the BTr told them that they had decided to bid out the zero coupon bonds instead.

CODE-NGO narrates that at that point they were already "very frustrated." The organization had by then invested a tremendous amount of effort and resources in the negotiations for the PEACe bonds, while their financial advisers had shelled out their own money to hire lawyers and consultants to expedite paperwork for the bureaucracy.

Camacho had just taken over the finance portfolio at around that time and CODE-NGO quickly arranged a meeting with him and with Edeza in attendance purportedly "just to brief the new finance secretary of the project." Both the BTr and CODE-NGO claim that Camacho inhibited himself from the negotiations citing conflict of interest as his sister, Ma. Socorro Camacho-Reyes, was the chair of the CODE-NGO.

Staying only about 10 to 15 minutes during that meeting, Camacho then reportedly delegated authority to Edeza to deal with the group. At that point, CODE-NGO was still convincing Edeza to push through with the negotiations.

"After all the effort, we really wanted to negotiate on a rate, and he (Edeza) said, 'assuming I agree, we should use the market rate (from Bloomberg) and raise the issue size, and I think we agreed at 15 percent at that point'," Songco said.

Formal recommendation

This was when BTr came up with its formal recommendation to auction the zero coupon bonds in memorandum letters to the finance secretary dated July 4 and 12 due to concerns over transparency, pricing and tax issues.

Not to be dissuaded, CODE-NGO nonetheless proceeded to write to the BSP on Aug. 9, requesting an increase in issue size from what was indicated in a previous proposal. The Monetary Board issued a resolution on Sept. 27 that allowed the bonds to have a total face amount of P50 billion with gross issue proceeds to be determined "at the time of auction."

In the context of these negotiations, sources from the bureaucracy reported heated exchanges between CODE-NGO and concerned government officials as the BTr insisted on having a bidding instead of a negotiated deal. One financial practitioner privy to the negotiations even commented on this situation saying, "*Lugi naman kasi sila. Sila trumabaho pero baka iba pa ang makinabang* (It's really unfair for them. They did all the work but they might not even get to benefit from it)."

But the BTr stood firm in its decision to open up the 10-year zero coupon bonds to all government securities eligible dealers (GSEDs) and began securing full presidential powers to auction the debt papers by the middle of September. Edeza said they decided to push through with the issuance of the zeroes because of the benefits they believe will accrue to the government such as lower borrowing cost and the absence of periodic (semi-annual) coupon payments, which will allow the Treasury to better manage the country's local debt portfolio.

The bureau first announced the auction of just P3.5 billion worth of the 10-year zero coupon bonds without the special features (no tax exemptions or reserve eligibilities) on Sept. 26, 2001, stressing the necessity for a manual bidding of the maiden issue since the electronic program designed for the instrument was still being developed.

The auction, scheduled for Oct. 2, was eventually postponed to Oct. 11 when market players raised concerns over the computation of taxes. Unlike other issues, zero coupon bonds had no periodic coupons or interest payments, and hence taxes applied were harder to assess.

Bond auction

But by the first week of October, the national treasury received full presidential powers to auction bonds similar to what CODE-NGO had been pushing for and decided to use this option since this involved both lower financing costs and a simpler tax structure. Deputy Treasurer Jose Antonio Tan said the BTr met with the GSEDs on Oct. 3 in one of its quarterly forums to discuss possible amendments to auction rules and regulations. It was during this time, he said, when the bureau informally discussed the features of zero coupon bonds.

On Oct. 9, the Treasury finally announced the bidding of P30 billion worth of 10-year zero coupon bonds exempt from withholding tax due to the 19-lender rule. The memo also indicated that the auction would be done manually as the BTr's electronic system could not handle a bidding limited to only 19 lenders. The auction, which will follow the Dutch method, was scheduled for Oct. 16.

Edeza professes that the bureau took special care to fully inform the market of the auction, announcing it one week ahead, instead of the usual two to three days for ordinary issues, and broadcasting the news through three information systems, namely Bridge, Reuters and Bloomberg and in contrast to just one (Bridge), as was normally the case.

However, a slip-up occurred when the Treasury failed to immediately notify the market that the bonds to be auctioned were eligible as secondary reserves, a detail that was made known only a day before the bidding. The DOF had written the Monetary Board on Sept. 14 for an opinion on zero coupon bonds, and received a reply on Oct. 9, which the Treasury failed to instantly convey to the bidders because of the need to clarify some matters with the BSP.

"It's something I'm also not satisfied with myself," said Edeza. He asserted, however, that the market has a ready way of calculating the market value of the bond given these eligibilities because of the guidelines the BSP has set on pricing liquidity reserves. The rule is simply to subtract half a percentage point off the yield or interest rate.

The BTr decided to retain the tax exemptions and reserve eligibilities, officials emphasize, not to accommodate the wishes of CODE-NGO, which was now merely one of the bidders, but to bring down the country's borrowing costs. By then, it was already quite convenient for the Treasury to simply adopt the idea of CODE-NGO, as the group had already done the groundwork. Most of the official correspondences already referred to the zero coupon bonds as PEACe bonds by that time.

Edeza clarifies, however, that the bureau could just as well have gotten these eligibilities on its own as tax exemptions were simply a result of existing laws. Using the 19-lender rule, for instance, the Treasury, by limiting the number of investors to less than 20, allowed the 10-year zero coupon bonds to become exempt from the 20-percent withholding tax, making it more attractive to the bidders.

"Why shouldn't the government invoke the law to allow itself to issue a bond that will cheapen its financing?" he commented. "And the only reason why we did this is because we were hoping that the market will see through it and bid rates lower, which is what happened. Otherwise, the rate would have been at 16.5 percent."

Partnership

Left in the cold, CODE-NGO continued its partnership with Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), now its official agent bank. While the group signed the mandate letter for the bid, it would be the RCBC treasury department bidding on its behalf and cooking up the price strategy.

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Taipannic dogfight

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

JOHN Gokongwei Jr. and Lucio Tan may be *kumpares*, their favored sons good friends, and the two taipans may be professing their friendship and admiration for each other in public, but that has not stopped their respective airlines from engaging in fierce, even cutthroat fare war never before seen on Philippine skies.

Newspapers this weekend featured competing ads announcing PAL's $145/3-night tour packages to Hong Kong, as against Cebu Pacific's $126 for an identical package, offering exactly the same hotel accommodations.

Demand, according to the grapevine, has been brisk, despite the post-Sept. 11 scare and the yearly wallet-busting Yuletide splurge among the Filipinos.

If you think that those packages are already bargain-basement, Cebu Pacific even offered a limited number of $93/3-night Hong Kong package, quickly snapped up, during the recently concluded travel tour exposition at the Megamall.

At that price, it is definitely cheaper and quicker to fly to Hong Kong than drive up to Baguio and stay in a local hotel.

According to the Cebu Pacific grapevine, the Hong Kong dogfight is but a curtain raiser to the forthcoming showdown between the two airlines over the lucrative and increasingly congested Manila-Seoul run.

Even before the actual awards of the additional flights, the two airlines have already engaged in an advertising and press release war as to how many flights are entitled to each other.

The price-busting strategy will also likely be the cornerstone of the marketing war when Mr. John's Digitel launches its own cellular phone service by mid-year, directly competing head-on with the duopoly of Smart and Globe.

It was, incidentally, the same strategy that Smart, like any newcomer, successfully employed when it took on then market leader Piltel.

Kuok on hold

KUOK's first foray into the luxury residential condominium market here has again been delayed by another year.

Given the brightening prospects under the GMA administration, Kuok Philippine Properties had scheduled ground breaking on its P2-billion, Shangri-la De la Rosa project last October. Unfortunately, the Sept. 11 attacks intervened.

As a result, Kuok's unnamed "prospective funder" got cold feet and asked Kuok to hold everything in abeyance until the middle of this year to give the funder time to reassess business conditions.

"Give us until June 30, 2002 to finalize arrangements again with our prospective funder," an apologetic Kuok vice president for finance Vicente Formoso wrote to the condo buyers. "We are sure you will appreciate that it is very difficult to get another funder who would be willing to risk P2 billion on this project."

A joint venture with SGV and Centrum Condominium, whose buildings were demolished so the properties could be integrated into what promises to be the most luxurious condominium in Legaspi Village, the "six-star" De La Rosa condo was launched right smack as the Asian crisis was unfolding in July 1997.

As the crisis was razing the region, the Kuoks decided to indefinitely postpone work until better times. The advent of the Estrada presidency, however, only worsened the local outlook.

FGU-Mitsui venture

CONTRARY to what was reported on Feb. 15 here, the insurance venture between Bank of the Philippine Islands subsidiary, FGU, and Mitsui-Sumitomo Insurance of Japan, is formally known by its initials, BPI/MS.

BPI retains majority ownership and control in the $300-million venture, with a Japanese, Ryuichi Ito, as president.

Heard through the grapevine

THE APPOINTMENT of Diosdado Salvador as president of the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank has run into a dead end, after Malacañang found out that the ex-Citibanker holds an American passport. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi @hotmail.com.)*

Gov't clears roadblocks to expressway project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has finally cleared all the roadblocks to the multibillion-dollar expansion and rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway after allotting P1 billion for right-of-way acquisitions and giving its assurance to creditors that they would be allowed to take over the tollway should the Lopez-controlled Manila North Tollways Corp. default on its loans.

Renato V. Diaz, presidential assistant for regional development in North Luzon, said that after clearing the construction and financing hurdles, "MNTC should start the project by April and we expect it to finish within 24 months."

The 84-kilometer project has been delayed for nearly seven years.

Diaz said Malacañang has already filed in the courts for right-of-way acquisitions to facilitate the expansion of the expressway. He said Malacañang should release the funds amounting to P1 billion by next month.

On MNTC's financing, Diaz said that Malacañang has stood pat on its policy not to grant government guarantee on build-operate-transfer (BOT) projects like the North Luzon Expressway.

In lieu of a guarantee, Diaz said Malacañang assured the creditors that they would be given the right to take over or nominate another entity should MNTC fail to meet its financing obligations with the syndicate.

Diaz said the lenders were satisfied with this arrangement considering that all toll fees generated by the project would go directly to finance their loans.

The MNTC lenders include ADB and IFC ($45 million each), Export Finance and Insurance Corp. of Australia ($55 million), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency ($52.5215 million), and Coface ($55 million).

MNTC is building and rehabilitating 14 interchanges, 24 bridges and 31 overpasses from the Balintawak to the Sta. Ines tollways.

PNB's asset value up ₱14B

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE National Bank has understated the value of its foreclosed assets by about P14 billion and the revaluation would increase the lender's book value to about P73 per share from the current P40 each.

PNB chair Norberto Nazareno said in an interview that the bank had reappraised its foreclosed assets and found that because of "appraisal increment," it could sell almost P24 billion in real and other properties owned or acquired at a market value that would be P14 billion higher.

Once the foreclosed assets are sold, Nazareno said the "P14 billion bonanza" would be added to PNB's existing capital of P14.6 billion and would help strengthen the bank's balance sheet.

Nazareno, who is also the president of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., said the revaluation of the bank's Ropoa would add P32.80 per share to a book value of about P40 each.

He explained that the bank's book value was still being determined by its external auditor, SGV & Co.

PNB has to register a book value of at least P40 per share before it could ask the Securities and Exchange Commission to reduce the par value of its shares to P40 from P60.

The reduction in par value is one of the items to be tackled by the PNB board once the government and Lucio Tan have signed the memorandum of agreement that would convert part of the P25 billion in government advances into equity in the country's sixth largest lender.

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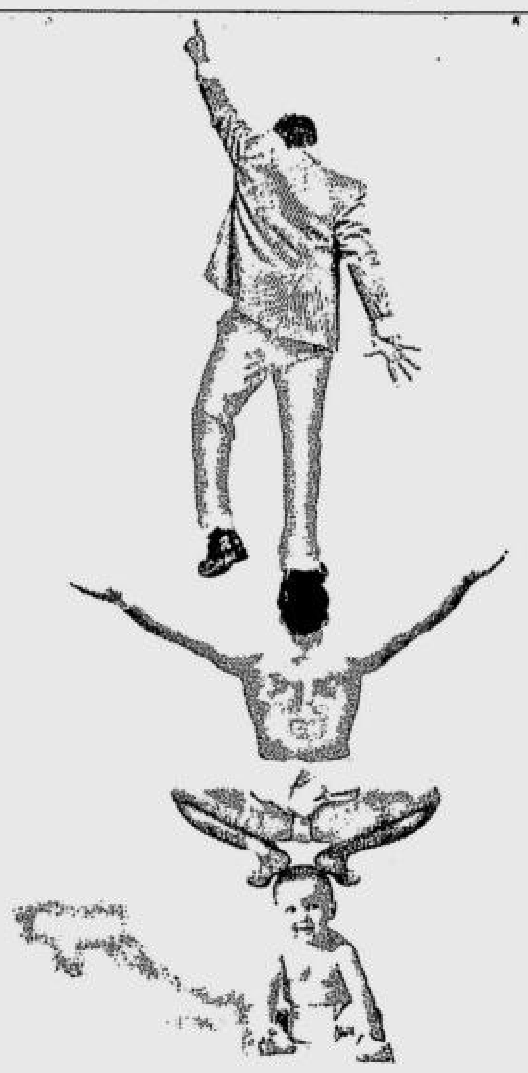

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NAPOCOR PRIVATIZATION

GMA set to sign rules of energy reform law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is set to approve and sign today the implementing rules of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

The Department of Energy announced yesterday that a joint congressional commission has approved the rules and regulations for carrying out reforms in the power industry, paving the way for the privatization of state-owned firm National Power Corp.

The energy department said the 14-member Joint Congressional Power Commission approved the rules late on Monday.

"We are very pleased that the JCPC has finally approved the IRR (implementing rules and regulations). We believe we can now proceed with the reforms," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said in a statement released by the department.

"As we all know, the IRR is very crucial in the implementation of the restructuring and the privatization of Napocor."

Perez said he hoped to see the same "determination" in fast-tracking the approval of Napocor's privatization plan, which the JCPC is also mandated by law to approve.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act, or Republic Act 9136, seeks to restructure the power industry by separating the power business into four different sectors—generation, transmission, distribution and supply—to encourage competition and promote efficiency. It was passed into law on June 8, 2001.

A wholesale electricity spot market will be set up one year after the law takes effect and it also seeks to privatize Napocor later this year.

Perez said the final approval of the IRR would send a strong signal to investors that the administration was definitely serious in institutionalizing economic reforms.

"The President is very committed that we implement the necessary reforms in our power sector and that we stay on track with the privatization of Napocor," he said.

"We also believe we can meet all the targets we have set, first by privatizing the National Transmission Co. (Transco) by June or July this year," he said.

The privatization of Napocor, the country's main power supplier, will start with the sale of its transmission assets in the middle of the year followed by the sale of its generation assets late this year or in early 2003.

Napocor, unable to recover from the 1997 Asian crisis, has loan obligations estimated at around $6 billion. It is set to auction about 70 percent of its assets worth between $5.2 billion and $6.0 billion. ***With a report from Reuters***

Gokongwei spurns Tan bid to acquire stake in Digitel

By Abigail L. Ho

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. said yesterday it has no need for a local partner for its soon-to-be-launched cellular business, as it has enough funding for the next three years.

In an interview late on Monday, Digitel chair emeritus John Gokongwei Jr. said Digitel GSM, mobile phone unit of JG Summit Holdings Inc., could get by in the next three years without partnering with the country's other taipans.

"I think the way our business is structured now, I don't need any taipans to partner with. We have enough of our own resources," Gokongwei told the INQUIRER.

However, he did not discount the possibility of a local tie-up in the future.

"I'm not saying that (we would never partner with any local entity). I'm just saying that the way this company is structured, we don't need financing or help because we have all the help we need now," he said.

"We have $200 million up to three years. We don't need (to issue bonds)," he said.

An industry source earlier revealed that beer and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan was considering a stake in Digitel and in another mobile phone company, Smart Communications Inc.

The source added that Tan currently had his heart set on acquiring a telecommunications firm to add to his long list of businesses.

Gokongwei said, however, that Digitel had no plans at the moment to get into a partnership with any local entity. The company is holding talks with "one or two foreign firms" for a partnership, he said.

Digitel is set to hold a soft launch of its wireless services by the first week of March, Gokongwei disclosed.

Half of its commercial operations will start in June and full-blown operations have been scheduled in October, he added.

JG Summit Ltd., a unit of conglomerate JG Summit Holdings Inc., earlier completed its four-year bond issue worth $100 million.

Company officials have said proceeds of the bond float would finance Digitel GSM and boost the resources of JG Summit's flagship company, Universal Robina Corp.

The bond issue, launched last week and due in February 2006, was priced at 502 basis points over off-the-run US Treasury 5.625 percent with a coupon rate of 9.25 percent.

JG Summit Ltd. is JG Summit's wholly owned subsidiary registered in the British Virgin Islands.

The JG Summit group holds leading positions in several industries through its subsidiaries involved in branded consumer food, retail operations, real estate and telecommunication services.

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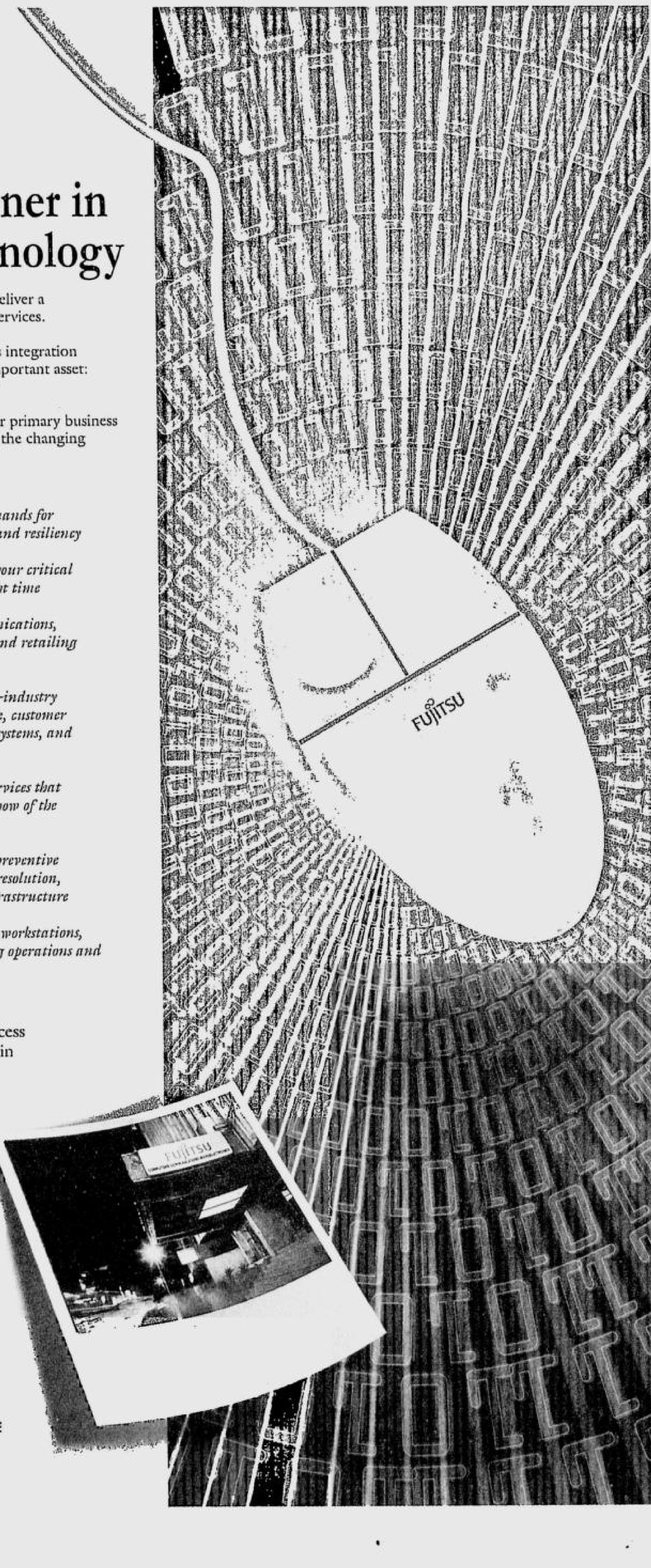


NIA asks Napocor to settle row over San Roque dam

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL Irrigation Administration yesterday urged the National Power Corp. to resolve environmental issues surrounding the energy component of the P12-billion San Roque multipurpose project.

In an interview, NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras urged Napocor and its partner, Marubeni Power Corp., to work on getting the San Roque project off the ground so that funds meant for an attached irrigation project could be released.

"The Japanese government has refused to commit on the irrigation project unless environmental issues raised by some nongovernment groups are answered. This should come from Napocor and its BOT (build-operate-transfer) partner, Marubeni," Paras said.

The Philippines is asking some P8.6 billion in financial assistance from Japan for the irrigation component of the San Roque project.

Paras urged Napocor and Marubeni to resolve environmental issues concerning the energy component of the San Roque project so that the NIA could start working on the irrigation part this year.

It will take at least two years to build a dam and an irrigation system for the project, he said.

Some 70,800 hectares of farmlands and over 57,000 families are expected to benefit from the San Roque irrigation project.

The Japanese Bank for International Cooperation earlier scrapped an P8.6-billion loan for the San Roque project's irrigation component after the Benguet provincial council refused to endorse it.

Former Nueva Ecija Rep. Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for Northern Luzon, said with the refusal of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to finance the project, the Philippines might apply for a loan from other international funding agencies.

Mutual funds ask Senate to slash docu stamp tax

By Elena R. Torrijos

INVESTMENT companies are seeking relief from the documentary stamp tax to spur growth in the mutual fund industry.

In a position paper sent to the Capital Market Development Council, the Investment Companies Association of the Philippines asked the Senate to consider slashing further in a proposed law the documentary stamp tax on mutual funds.

ICAP told the CMDC, a public-private sector initiative, that the Senate should consider slashing the documentary stamp tax on mutual funds to P1 for each mutual fund share with a par value of P200.

ICAP, an association of 16 mutual funds, also recommended that the lower documentary stamp tax be applied on the entire authorized capital stock of an investment company or a mutual fund upon its incorporation rather than upon the issuance of shares.

Officials of ICAP and the Securities and Exchange Commission point out that the Philippine mutual fund industry is the smallest and least-developed in East Asia.

ICAP said the defining feature of a mutual fund is that it is required to redeem its shares at net asset value per share upon the request of shareholders. Its redeemed shares are then cancelled and resold as original issues.

Under the present tax framework, however, each time a mutual fund or investment company resells canceled shares as original issues, it must again pay the P2 documentary stamp tax.

"This is unduly burdensome to mutual funds and a reduction in the yield to investors. This also puts mutual funds at a competitive disadvantage vis-a-vis other retail investment products, such as bank common trust funds and pre-need plans," ICAP said.

Naphtha cracker deal seen by June

SINGAPORE—The Philippine National Oil Co. expects to sign by mid-2002 a deal with its partners to build the country's first naphtha cracking plant, a company executive said yesterday.

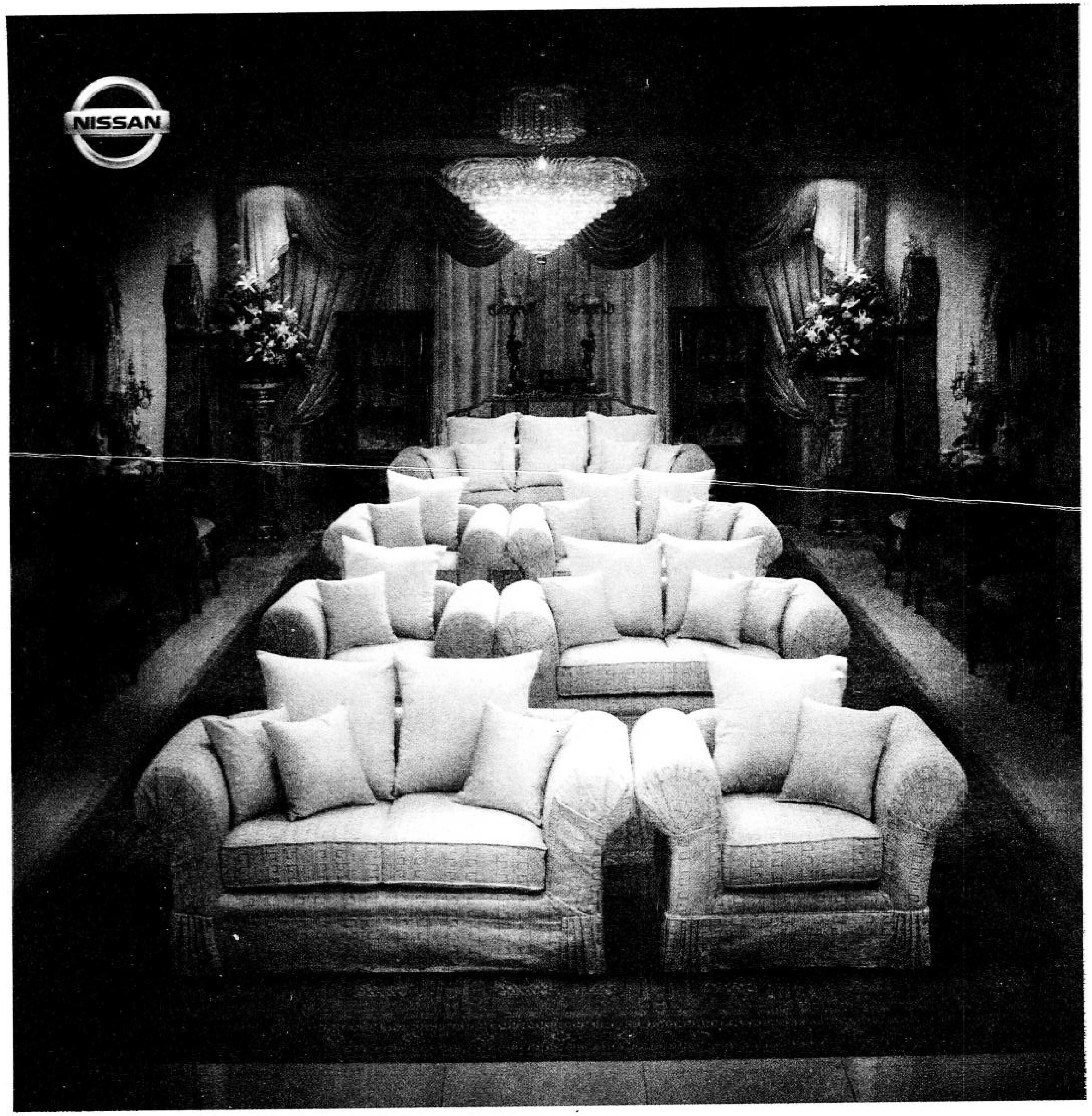
Jose Gangan, president of PNOC's petrochemical division, said the major equity shareholders in the $600-million plant would be PNOC, Malaysia's Petronas and the Brunei government. Petron Corp. will take a smaller stake, he said.

"Petron will be coming in on a smaller role. It could (take equity in exchange for) feedstocks and facilities," Gangan said in a telephone interview with Reuters.

The partners will begin a final feasibility study in mid-March and will sign a deal once the study is completed in mid to late June, he said. PNOC hopes to commission the plant in 2006.

PNOC is prepared to take a 35- to 45-percent stake, Gangan said. He declined to give the size of the proposed shareholdings for the other partners.

Reuters



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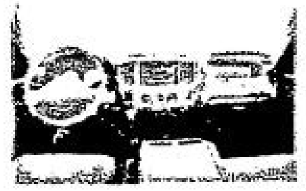

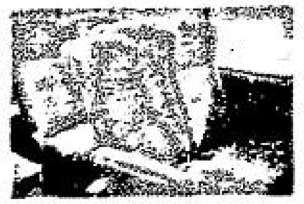

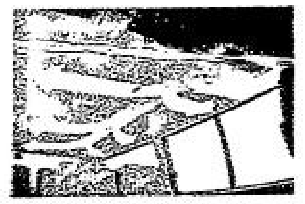

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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
12th Judicial Region
Branch 03, Hall of Justice, Iligan City
Tel. No. (063) 221-8007

PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE,
Represented by Governor
IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO,
Plaintiff,

- Versus -

GUMERCINDO, VICTOR, ISIDRO,
SULFICIA, ELPEDIO, CORAZON,
CALIXTA and ROBERTA, all surnamed
ESTRERA,
Defendants,
x---x

CIVIL CASE NO. 5676
FOR: EMINENT DOMAIN

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: VICTOR, ISIDRO, ELPEDIO
CORAZON, CALIXTA and
ROBERTA, all Surnamed
ESTRERA
(Last known Address or
in Cebu and/or Manila)

GREETINGS,

WHEREAS, this Court issued an order dated October 18, 2001, that Summons by publication of the above case be served upon the above defendants in a newspaper of general circulation nationwide at the expense of the plaintiff;

WHEREAS, copy of the Complaint, which is likewise required to be published is hereby quoted as follows:

COMPLAINT

PLAINTIFF, through undersigned counsel, this Honorable Court, respectfully states:

1 That plaintiff, Province of Lanao del Norte, is a public corporation duly created, and existing pursuant to and by virtue of the Philippine Laws, herein represented by IMELDA DIMAPORO, Provincial Governor, with the Office and address at Governor's Arsenio Quibranza Provincial Government Center, Pigcarangan, Tubo, Lanao del Norte;

2. That Defendants are all legal age, Filipinos and residents of Balagatasa, Maigo, Lanao del Norte where they maybe served with Summons and other processes of this Honorable Court;

3 That plaintiff is engaged in the development of the province and other local government units under it which requires, among others, the use of sand and gravels extracted and will be extracted from its quarry area at Balagatasa, Maigo, Lanao del Norte;

4. That the Defendants are the owners of an agricultural land area of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (100,180) square meters more or less at the said Barangay;

5 That in the hauling of said aggregates from the quarry site, plaintiffs have been passing through a portion of said property owned by the defendants;

6 That Defendants have been reluctant in allowing the passage of the aforesaid aggregates over their land;

7 That due to the aforesaid reluctance of the Defendants as stated in the next preceding paragraph, plaintiff deemed it necessary to acquire the necessary portion of the defendants property where plaintiffs dump trucks and other equipment could pass;

8. That the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Lanao del Norte has passed a Resolution No. 97-2001, authorizing the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte through the Provincial Governor Imelda Dimaporo, to initiate this proceedings, copy of said Resolution is hereto attached;

9. That despite plaintiffs signification upon the Defendants to acquire said a portion of the property of the defendants, consisting of FOUR THOUSAND (4,000 00) SQUARE METERS, they failed and refused and still refused and still fail and refuse to such proposal of the plaintiff, copy of the latter of the Provincial Assessor for the Plaintiff to acquire the said area is hereto attached and marked as Annex "C";

10. That the fair market value of the whole area is ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND AND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHT PESOS (P116,808.00), copies of the declaration of the real property are also attached marked as Annexes "D & E".

11. That based on the whole value of the area as aforestated, the value of subject area plaintiff wanted to take away of eminent domain is SIX THOUSAND AND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT PESOS (P6,408);

12. That pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government Code, Plaintiff is hereby tendering to this Honorable Court for the Defendants the amount of Fifteen percent (15%) of the fair market value as stated in the Declaration of the Real Property, or NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY TWO PESOS (P972.00).

13. That by virtue of the tender of payment of the aforesaid amount stated in the next preceding paragraph, plaintiff has the legal right to take immediate possession of subject property upon filing hereof, pursuant to Section 19 of Republic Act 7160, which provides:

"Section 19 Eminent Domain" xxx Provided further, That the Local Government Unit may immediately take possession of the property upon filing of the expropriation proceedings and upon making deposit with the proper court of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the fair market value of the property based on the current tax declaration of the property to be expropriated."

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prays of this Honorable Court.

1 That upon filing hereof and receipt of the acquired deposit, a WRIT OF POSSESSION be issued and authorizing the plaintiff, to enter and take immediate possession of subject property;

2 That three (3) Commissioners be appointed to hear the parties, view the property, assess the damage (amount) to be paid for the condemnation and to report this proceeding to the court;

3. That plaintiff be declared to have the lawful right to acquire the property subject hereof.

4. That after determination of the amount of compensation/indemnity, the plaintiff be authorized to effect full payment of subject property to the defendants;

5. Judgement be rendered against the Defendants, condemning their property sought to be expropriated in favor of the plaintiff, including all improvements thereon, if any, for public uses and for the purpose herein above set forth, free from all lines and encumbrances, whatsoever, and, thereafter, plaintiff be considered to be its owner for all intent and purposes.

PLAINTIFF FURTHER PRAYS for such other relief as way deemed just, proper and equitable under the premises.

Tubod, Lanao del Norte, July 19, 2001.

(Sgd.) NASIB D. YASIN
Provincial Legal Officer
Counsel of the Plaintiff
IBP #514966 2-24-2001 - Marawi City
PTR 1171024-2-1-2001 - Iligan City
Zone VII, Del Carmen, Iligan City

VERIFICATION & CERTIFICATE OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING

I, IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO, of legal age, Filipino, married and residing at Tubod, Lanao del Norte, after having been sworn in accordance with law hereby depose and say:

1. That I am the Governor of the Province, the plaintiff herein;
2. That I was authorized by the Sanggunian Panlalawigan of Lanao del Norte to initiate and file the foregoing complaint;
3. That I have read the contents of the foregoing complaint and found the allegations contained therein true to my own personal acknowledge, and;
4. I have not initiated any similar action neither aware of any pending incident before any tribunal or court, including the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, its Divisions, and should any will arise or some into my knowledge in the future, I will inform this Honorable Court within five (5) days and update the same.

(Sgd.) IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of July 2001, Tubod Lanao del Norte, Philippines. Affiant exhibiting to me her CTC No. 02615729 issued on July 12, 2001 at Tubod, Lanao del Norte, Philippines.

(Sgd.) NASIB D. YASIN
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2001

— o —

NOW THEREFORE, you are hereby required to ANSWER the Complaint herein published within sixty (60) days from the date of publication. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgement by default shall be taken against you for the relief demanded in the said complaint.

WITNESS, the Honorable Albert B. Abragan, Judge of this Court, this 5th day of November 2001, Iligan City.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EARL C.J. RUELO
Clerk of Court V
Branch Clerk of Court

(PDI – Feb. 20, 2002)

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JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883 ; 0916-4404374

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BestMaids4111593/7419082

Direct-Maid-Yaya-Cook 7570579

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

LOW RATE AGENCY 9288862

MAIDS w/NBI4216053/5588

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HOUSEHOLD

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NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•7722353•8712372

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 873-5062•873-7055

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Yaya Maid Cook Laba 8429807

Yaya Maid Cook 8708799

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A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313975

CLOSE VAN 7327806 4/6W

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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COMML/RESDL

MARIKINA

450m² Ind'l Valley ideal Pre-School 634-1212

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
VITO CRUZ MLA BNew/
Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge
P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

1511m² Ipil St., with Pool Near S-Mall 6M • 634-1212

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Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-5282174

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FARM/FISHPEN

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN

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Ms. Arlynn A. Torres
Makati City
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L2000 Baler St. QC whse
L280 Apo st SMH T9281469

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KALOOCAN

Bung nr MCU P5T 364-7831

MANDALUYONG

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QUEZON CITY

2Stry 11-14th Avenue Murphy Tel 912-1218 near Mkt Alimall 8T

3BR2TB / Park Qmart7240429

SAN JUAN

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HOUSE

KALOOCAN

5.5 Liban 4Ave 2BR 285-1167

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048

PASIG

V.Verde 5BR 5TB P60T 9299835

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2-BR EGI Condo nr Shopwise. Look for Vivian 896-1321

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Eurovilla Townhouse 2CG Sta Ana 3BR 2TB w/Mds Rm & B 22T 561-3903

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PASIG

P6.5 T7240024 CP95647237

VV6 1BR+Den Nicely Interior 17T 412-1825 / 0917-7914366

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MALATE OFFICES 5268048

Medical Plz-Ortigas 40-75m²Sale /Rent 412-1825 /0917-7914366

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MITSUBISHI

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'97 ECLIPSE 721-1074/1082

'95 Lancer GLXi P235 721-1074

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
12th Judicial Region
Branch 03, Hall of Justice, Iligan City
Tel. No. (063) 221-8007

PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE,
Represented by Governor
IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO,
Plaintiff,

CIVIL CASE NO. 5676
FOR: EMINENT DOMAIN

- Versus -

GUMERCINDO, VICTOR, ISIDRO,
SULFICIA, ELPEDIO, CORAZON,
CALIXTA and ROBERTA, all surnamed
ESTRERA,
Defendants,
x---x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: VICTOR, ISIDRO, ELPEDIO
CORAZON, CALIXTA and
ROBERTA, all Surnamed
ESTRERA
(Last known Address or
in Cebu and/or Manila)

GREETINGS,

WHEREAS, this Court issued an order dated October 18, 2001, that Summons by publication of the above case be served upon the above defendants in a newspaper of general circulation nationwide at the expense of the plaintiff;

WHEREAS, copy of the Complaint, which is likewise required to be published is hereby quoted as follows:

COMPLAINT

PLAINTIFF, through undersigned counsel, this Honorable Court, respectfully states:

1. That plaintiff, Province of Lanao del Norte, is a public corporation duly created, and existing pursuant to and by virtue of the Philippine Laws, herein represented by IMELDA DIMAPORO, Provincial Governor, with the Office and address at Governor's Arsenio Quibranza Provincial Government Center, Pigcarangan, Tubo, Lanao del Norte;
2. That Defendants are all legal age, Filipinos and residents of Balagatasa, Maigo, Lanao del Norte where they maybe served with Summons and other processes of this Honorable Court;
3. That plaintiff is engaged in the development of the province and other local government units under it which requires, among others, the use of sand and gravels extracted and will be extracted from its quarry area at Balagatasa, Maigo, Lanao del Norte;
4. That the Defendants are the owners of an agricultural land area of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (100,180) square meters more or less at the said Barangay;
5. That in the hauling of said aggregates from the quarry site, plaintiffs have been passing through a portion of said property owned by the defendants;
6. That Defendants have been reluctant in allowing the passage of the aforesaid aggregates over their land;
7. That due to the aforesaid reluctance of the Defendants as stated in the next preceding paragraph, plaintiff deemed it necessary to acquire the necessary portion of the defendants property where plaintiffs dump trucks and other equipment could pass;
8. That the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Lanao del Norte has passed a Resolution No. 97-2001, authorizing the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte through the Provincial Governor Imelda Dimaporo, to initiate this proceedings, copy of said Resolution is hereto attached;
9. That despite plaintiffs signification upon the Defendants to acquire said a portion of the property of the defendants, consisting of FOUR THOUSAND (4,000.00) SQUARE METERS, they failed and refused and still refused and still fail and refuse to such proposal of the plaintiff, copy of the latter of the Provincial Assessor for the Plaintiff to acquire the said area is hereto attached and marked as Annex "C".
10. That the fair market value of the whole area is ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND AND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHT PESOS (P116,808.00), copies of the declaration of the real property are also attached marked as Annexes "D & E"
11. That based on the whole value of the area as aforestated, the value of subject area plaintiff wanted to take away of eminent domain is SIX THOUSAND AND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT PESOS (P6,408);
12. That pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government Code, Plaintiff is hereby tendering to this Honorable Court for the Defendants the amount of Fifteen percent (15%) of the fair market value as stated in the Declaration of the Real Property, or NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY TWO PESOS (P972.00).
13. That by virtue of the tender of payment of the aforesaid amount stated in the next preceding paragraph, plaintiff has the legal right to take immediate possession of subject property upon filing hereof, pursuant to Section 19 of Republic Act 7160, which provides:

"Section 19 Eminent Domain" xxx Provided further, That the Local Government Unit may immediately take possession of the property upon filing of the expropriation proceedings and upon making deposit with the proper court of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the fair market value of the property based on the current tax declaration of the property to be expropriated."

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prays of this Honorable Court.

1. That upon filing hereof and receipt of the acquired deposit, a WRIT OF POSSESSION be issued and authorizing the plaintiff, to enter and take immediate possession of subject property.
2. That three (3) Commissioners be appointed to hear the parties, view the property, assess the damage (amount) to be paid for the condemnation and to report this proceeding to the court;
3. That plaintiff be declared to have the lawful right to acquire the property subject hereof.
4. That after determination of the amount of compensation/indemnity, the plaintiff be authorized to effect full payment of subject property to the defendants;
5. Judgement be rendered against the Defendants, condemning their property sought to be expropriated in favor of the plaintiff, including all improvements thereon, if any, for public uses and for the purpose herein above set forth, free from all lines and encumbrances, whatsoever, and, thereafter, plaintiff be considered to be its owner for all intent and purposes.

PLAINTIFF FURTHER PRAYS for such other relief as way deemed just, proper and equitable under the premises.

Tubod, Lanao del Norte, July 19, 2001.

(Sgd.) NASIB D. YASIN
Provincial Legal Officer
Counsel of the Plaintiff

IBP #514986 2-24-2001 - Marawi City
PTR 1171024-2-1-2001 - Iligan City
Zone VII, Del Carmen, Iligan City

VERIFICATION & CERTIFICATE OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING

I, IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO, of legal age, Filipino, married and residing at Tubod, Lanao del Norte, after having been sworn in accordance with law hereby depose and say:

1. That I am the Governor of the Province, the plaintiff herein;
2. That I was authorized by the Sanggunian Panlalawigan of Lanao del Norte to initiate and file the foregoing complaint;
3. That I have read the contents of the foregoing complaint and found the allegations contained therein true to my own personal acknowledge, and;
4. I have not initiated any similar action neither aware of any pending incident before any tribunal or court, including the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, its Divisions, and should any will arise or some into my knowledge in the future, I will inform this Honorable Court within five (5) days and update the same.

(Sgd.) IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of July 2001, Tubod Lanao del Norte, Philippines, Affiant exhibiting to me her CTC No. 02615729 issued on July 12, 2001 at Tubod, Lanao del Norte, Philippines.

(Sgd.) NASIB D. YASIN
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2001

— o —

NOW THEREFORE, you are hereby required to ANSWER the Complaint herein published within sixty (60) days from the date of publication. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgement by default shall be taken against you for the relief demanded in the said complaint.

WITNESS, the Honorable Albert B. Abragan, Judge of this Court, this 5th day of November 2001, Iligan City.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EARL C.J. RUELO
Clerk of Court V
Branch Clerk of Court

(PDI – Feb. 20, 2002)

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IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MARIAN 8955627
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MB100 Van 6437397, 6393957

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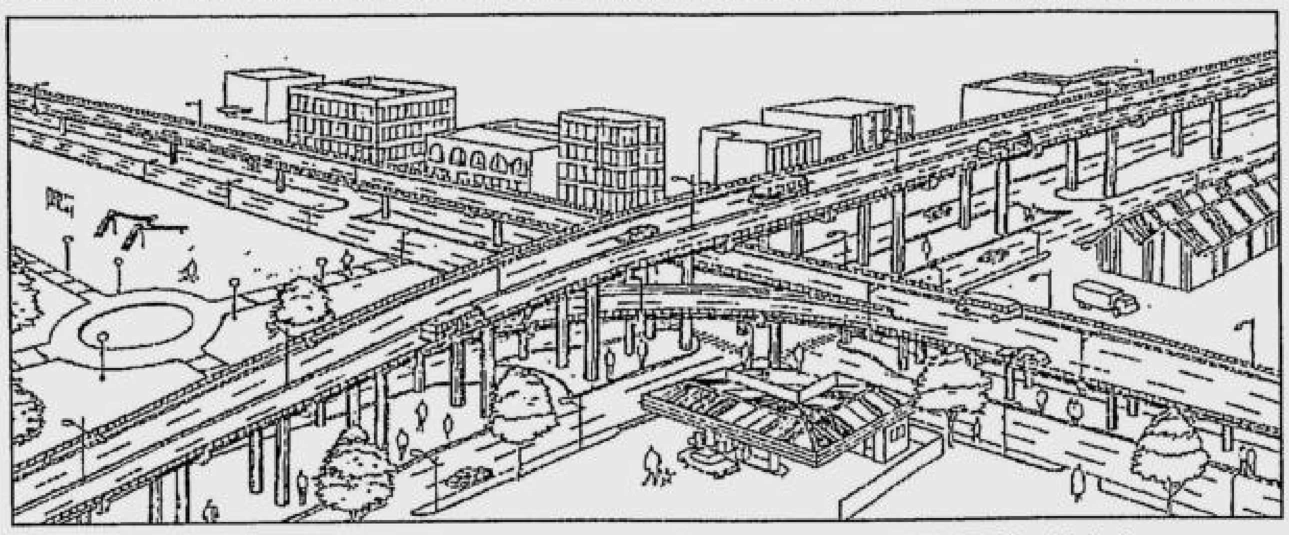
ANNOUNCEMENT

The **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS** in coordination with the **METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, the City Government of Pasig and the PNP – Traffic Enforcement Group** announces the

Construction of C5 / ORTIGAS EXTENSION INTERCHANGE PROJECT



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

ALTERNATE ROUTES

(Effective February 21, 2002)

C5 NORTH BOUND /SOUTH BOUND ALTERNATE ROUTES

From C5-Makati/Mandaluyong Area to Cubao Area & Vice Versa:
1 – From C5
2 – Left turn to Lanuza Avenue, alternatively
3 – Left turn to Julia Vargas and right turn to Lanuza Avenue
4 – Take Green Meadows Avenue
5 – Left turn to C5 and proceed to Cubao area, and Vice Versa

ORTIGAS CENTER TO MARIKINA and VICE VERSA ALTERNATE ROUTES

From Ortigas Center to Marikina & Vice Versa:
1 – From Ortigas Center
2 – Left turn to Green Meadows Avenue
3 – Left turn to C5
4 – Right turn to Calle Industria
5 – Left turn to Amang Rodriguez and proceed to Marikina area & Vice Versa

ORTIGAS CENTER TO CAINTA / ANTIPOLO AREA & VICE VERSA

Alternate Route No. 1:
1 – From Ortigas Center
2 – Left turn to Green Meadows Avenue
3 – Left turn to C5
4 – Right turn to Calle Industria
5 – Left turn to Amang Rodriguez and proceed to Marikina area & Vice Versa

Alternate Route No. 2:
1 – From Ortigas Center
2 – Right turn to Lanuza Avenue
3 – Left turn to Julia Vargas Avenue
4 – Left turn to C5
5 – Right turn to Eagle Street
6 – Left turn to Dr. Sixto Antonio Avenue
7 – Right turn to Lopez Jaena Street
8 – Left turn to C. Raymundo Avenue
9 – Right turn to Ortigas Avenue and proceed to Cainta / Antipolo area & Vice Versa

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★OFC STAFF 9134470 Aya★

Ofc Staff 18-45yrs old w/ w/out exp Start ASAP 9134470 Anton

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that MR. RALPH MICHAEL T. VALMONTE (whose picture is shown above) is no longer connected with the P.J. Lhuillier Group of Companies. Any business transaction entered into by the above person from January 14, 2002 will not be honored by P. J. Lhuillier, Inc. and its Affiliates.

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EMB Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tels 927-1517/18, 426-4332, 928-1215, 925-5324, 920-2241/43

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) of the SPECIAL PRIVATE LAND TIMBER LICENSE (SPLTL)** No. 5 Project of the Green Circle Properties and Resources Corporation to be located in Brgy. Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon and Brgy. Umiray, Dingalan, Aurora.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed SPLTL No. 5 Project to attend a Public Hearing on **March 22, 2002** at 9:00 a.m. at the Municipal Hall, Dingalan, Aurora.

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB (Central Office and/or Region IVA) on or before **March 22, 2002**.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Ms. Jannish J. Sajol or Ms. Ma. Januseita C. Uy at telephone numbers 920-2240 to 41.

(PDI - Feb 20 & 27, 2002)

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Notice is herbey given that the estate of the late spouses MERCURIO TRIA and SABINA R. TRIA has been extrajudicially settled among theirs heirs as per Doc. No. 669; Page No. 36; Book No. 57; Series of 2001 under the Notary Public Atty. Cipriano P. Maribojoc of Quezon City.
(PDI-Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that ACR No. E-077711 & ICR No. 184162 in favor of Ma. Josefina Remedios Ortigas was lost. If found, pls. return to BI-Intramuros.
(PDI-Feb. 20 & 27, 2002)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Stock Cert. of CK Manufacturing Corp. SC #4 for 200, SC #13 for 100, SC #19 for 2000 & SC #1 for 600 SC #6 for 200, SC #12 for 800 No constest presented w/in 3 consecutive weeks of publication new cert. will be issued.
(PDI-Feb.20,27&Mar.6,2002)

PERSONAL

St. Jude's Novena
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved through the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude help of the hopeless, pray for us.
Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. - J.A.G.

THANKS HOLY SPIRIT RC

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your Mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank You Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

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PERSONAL

Holy Spirit, You who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal,You who give the divine gift to forgive & forget the wrong that is done to me & who, in all instances of my life, is with me. I, in this dialogue, want to thank you for everything & confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You & may love ones in your perpetual glory. Amen

Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without starting one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted

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JOSE D. TANCUAN

peacefully joined our Creator on February 16, 2002 at the age of 86.

His bereaved wife **Irene**; children **Gary** (†) & **Cely Tancuan**, **Josie** & **Pocholo Veguillas**, **Danny** & **Eva Tancuan**, **David** & **Frances Tancuan**, **Alex** & **Chinnie Tancuan**, and **Carol** & **Hans Sy**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; other relatives and dear friends, request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Interment will be on Friday, February 22, 2002, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio.

Please omit flowers.

**I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.**

John 14:6

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

IRENE CORVITE FIGUEROA

of Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna

who joined the Lord on January 26, 2002

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses, prayers and flowers, visited and kept vigil, joined us in the burial rites, and in one way or the other condoled with us and showed love and concern in our time of bereavement.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

MARCELO S. SAMSON

*Peacefully joined his Creator on February 16, 2002
at the age of 67.*

His bereaved wife **Angela**; children **Marie Angela**, **Aileen** & **Nick**, **Jennifer**, **Sally**; brothers **Zacarias** (†), **Edmundo**; sisters **Araceli**, **Adelaida**; sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request for your prayers.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Oro, Legaspi City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 21, 2002 at the Camalig Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass at the St. John the Baptist Church.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ENGR. CASIANO "Casing" FALLORINA PAULINO

(August 13, 1907 - February 15, 2002)
UP CLASS 1933

wish to thank all of you who, by way of your presence, prayers, thoughts and flowers, offered us solace and comfort.

We also thank you for joining us in remembering him, who in so many ways, have touched our lives forever.

God bless!

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How do you get that dream job?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I hate my job. I've always had a fantasy of a job that I just loved to go to each day. Do I have to let this dream die or can you help point me in the direction to achieve it?

Daydreaming

It's one of the saddest stories ever to hit football. Corey Stringer just pushed himself too far at training camp and died of heat stroke. A biography of Corey included a fascinating story. In his early days, Corey was a very angry young man. So angry that he had "FTW" tattooed on his arm. It stood for "F— The World." Later, as he cleaned up his life, he chose to keep the tattoo but changed his interpretation of it to "Find The way."

And if you want to find your way from expletives to your perfect job, you'll have to get started immediately. Below are a series of strategies that you can deploy in your current position. These tips come from "What Color is Your Parachute?" (Ten Speed, 2001), the bible for all things career. Its author, Dick Bolles, invented most of what we know about looking for work.

- View your job as temporary. Bolles points out that 90 percent of us work for someone else. Which means that how long you last at a job is dictated more by them than by you. So never stop networking and updating your resume.
- View your job as a seminar. To paraphrase Woody Allen, every job should be like a shark. It has to keep moving to stay alive. The problem? Most of us at work are like dead sharks. You need to constantly be looking for chances to increase your expertise and skills. Volunteer for difficult assignments, sign up for training and look for opportunities to get yourself out of your comfort zone. Do anything that you can to keep your learning muscles buffed at work.
- View your job as an adventure. To say that work is unpredictable for many of us is a huge understatement. Rather than facing it with dread, can you see it as an adventure and embrace it? A while back, I flew on an airplane where every drink that was given out had a parasol in it. Turns out that one flight attendant, widely known for the joy she brings to work, brought them to work. Can you be more adventurous at your workplace?
- Try to find satisfaction in the work itself. It's not easy to enjoy something eight hours a day, week after week. In fact, think of something that you love to do and try doing it 40 hours a week. Chances are your love of it will diminish. That's why it's so important to find whatever pleasure you can from just doing your job.

An important point: You will never find your dream job by just daydreaming at work. It takes a lot of hard work to turn your 9 to 5 into something to dream about.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: How would you describe your current career?

—It's a dream come true, 18.7 percent

—It's a nightmare, 22.9 percent

—It's okay, it pays the bills, 58.3 percent

Our winning strategy for finding your perfect job comes from Samantha H. in Jamaica, NY. "First thing, let's not call it a job but your life's career. Job sounds so humdrum, put upon and boring. My mother gave me the best advice: 'Look for the thing that has been with you all of your life. It has brought you through good and bad times. Once you find it, then that is what you should be doing.' I followed that advice and found a career I loved. I loved it so much I hated it. So like a young fool, I left it without another area in that industry to go to or enough contacts to get me there. I told myself that I had bills to pay, needed to move out on my own. So I got a job and that is what it has been for me for the past seven years. I am now on the comeback trail and am smarter than I was before. Smarter because I am now more focused."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.)

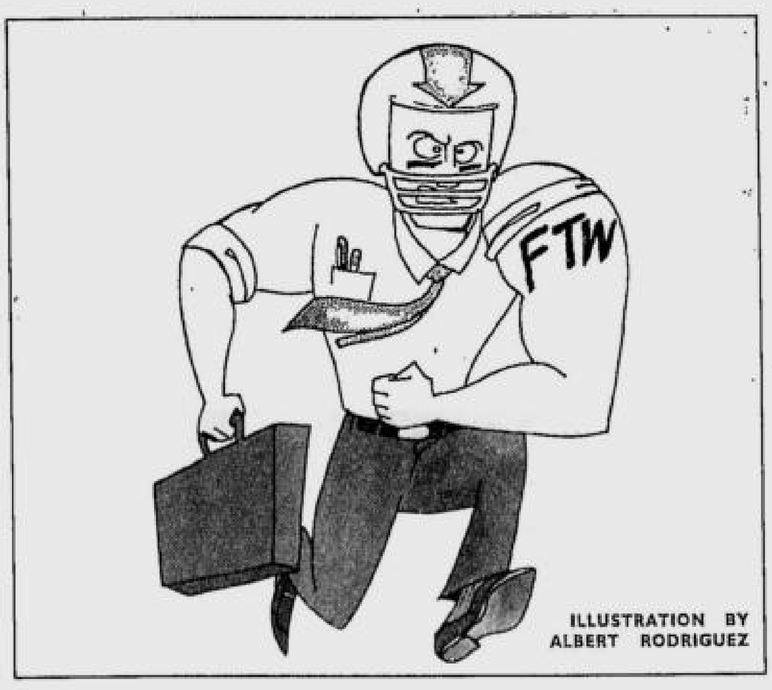

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Balance leads to right life's directions

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

I LEARNED my first lessons at balance from a secondhand bike, a battered two-wheeler given new life with a fresh layering of red paint and a generous coat of chain grease. I was all of nine years old and my cousins, all older and wiser, thought it was about time I learned. They taught me to park the bike on the crest of a low hill, find the most comfortable position on the seat, hold on to the handlebars, push my feet off the ground, and keep my eyes focused ahead of me. Never mind that they didn't teach me how to pedal, or how to cushion my first fall, what followed was a nine-year old's version of nirvana. For a few precious seconds, I coasted down the hill, wind blowing on my face, completely balanced.

Of course, I earned my first biker's bruise at the foot of the hill, but it was pain I bore proudly. I had my first taste of freedom. I went up that low hill several times that day and took as many falls, but I was hooked on biking for the rest of my pre-adolescent years, and hooked on balance for the rest of my life.

Today, when the juggling act of a working mom overwhelms me, I look inside me for that low hill where I can park myself just to get my bearings back.

Enough time

Balance has come to mean different things over the years. I have found that it's important to know what balance feels like for us working moms, so that we can pinpoint when we're falling off too often.

As working moms, there are common feelings we aspire for when we talk of balance. First, balance means simply having enough time for family and work. The tug from both sides is just enough to keep you on track, not enough to make you fall one way or the other. Ask yourself, is your work taking too much time away from your family? Do some simple arithmetic with your schedule.

Family counselor Maribel Dionisio says that although the number of hours is really tilted towards work (especially if you have a nine-to-five job), compute how much one-on-one time you spend with your kids. Maribel recommends spending at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted, distraction-free quality time with each of your children everyday. If you can't, then the balance is far too tilted towards work and you'll have to make some adjustments before you cruise down the hill. Can you negotiate for flexi time at work? Can you report for work earlier, take shorter lunch breaks, just so you can quit work earlier?

Inner flow

Second, real balance feels effortless; it feels like there's an inner flow that's helping you simply coast along. Even if according to your own personal tally, you have everything under control at home and at work, but you don't feel good about yourself, then you've struck a false balance. Take note of the signs of imbalance: irritability, resentment, chronic fatigue, feeling overwhelmed or feeling numb. When these feelings creep in, it means you've tricked yourself by putting on balancer wheels. The balance is not real. To regain your balance, you'll have to spend some time alone, for yourself, to get in touch with your inner values, and track your priorities accordingly.

Simplify

Third, despite the hiccups along the way (a *yaya* quits, your project is rejected, your daughter is sick), you have enough resources, skills, fallback plans to keep you steady. As life takes its bends and turns, we fall off our bikes and take on pretty bad bruises. It's not how often you fall that matters, but how quickly you can get up again. Balance has to be worked at, planned for. You have to pack for the long journey ahead. See what you can pare down, simplify, so that you can pick yourself up faster. Also, set up pit stops along your journey, identify people you can rely on to help you out. Can you set up a car pool for your kids? Can you document all your projects carefully, so that if you need to take some time out of work, your colleagues will know the exact state of your projects?

Fourth, balance gives you a sense that the road you are now taking, professionally and personally, will lead you where you want to go. Ultimately, your happiness is the true measure of balance. Constantly checking if this is the road you want to take, the hill you want to coast along, will give you a sense of your true calling. When you know that this road is for you, this bike—no matter how battered—is for you, the journey in itself becomes the reward. Happy cruising.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of the magazine Metro Working Mom (MWM) published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing. Read more tips on the working mom's balancing act in this month's issue of MWM with Rosemarie and Cherie Gil on the cover.)

A team is not built in a day

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos Aquino

PREVIOUSLY, we discussed five leadership competencies: passion, humor, courage, integrity and trust, and energy/vitality/enthusiasm. We shall now discuss one more, building a team. These are from the research done by authors Patricia Guggenheimer and Maria Diana Szulc contained in the book, "Understanding Leadership Competencies." The definitions came from Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary.

Build is defined as "to develop according to a systematic plan, by a definite process, or on a particular base." Team is defined as "a number of persons associated together in work or activity."

Rome was not built in a day. So is a team. Teambuilding happens everyday. Teambuilding is enhanced or refreshed by some purposive team activities like planning, company outings or parties, seminars and workshops, meetings, committee work, cross functional projects.

Creating synergy

Guggenheimer and Szulc gave the example of Judy Gray, president and CEO of the Fairfaz County Chamber of Commerce, who used a strategic planning session to create synergy between herself and the existing team structure. Gray also wanted the team's inputs on creating a strategic plan that would be submitted to the board of directors prior to the start of the board's own strategic planning session.

The authors write, "Additional benefits resulted from the two levels of team building (at the board and staff levels):

- The staff realized they had authority to carry out many of their responsibilities without asking permission.
- The team helped the leaders identify issues of concern that the board needed to act upon.
- The staff decided to meet annually, tie objectives to yearend results, define what worked and what did not work, focus, tie the objectives for the bonus plan to monetary incentives and intangibles, celebrate successes and keep following the process rather than reinventing the wheel.
- The board was informed in its long-term succession planning efforts.
- The executive committee meeting selected nine action items from the board and assigned responsibility for implementation to executive committee directors and their respective staff liaisons.

Immediate benefits

"The immediate benefits of this session were:

- Improved team morale
- "Real-life assessment" of the direction in which the organization was moving
- Better service to the organization's members
- A visionary, yet realistic strategic plan for the board of directors
- Encouragement of the team to grow toward becoming a learning organization.

"As you can see, building teams helps organizations move to a competency-based structure. Team members know what skill sets are required and that their team members have these qualifications. Thus, mutual trust and respect are foundations for team-based organizations. A lack of competencies tears down the infrastructures and is apparent in organizations that have lived through a mismanaged change. If you have been through a rough re-organization, you may want to focus on this leadership competency first, and then prioritize the remaining competencies based on what your teams need."

High energy

My favorite definition of team is that a team is an energetic group of people who are committed to achieving common objectives, who work well together and enjoy doing so, and who produce high quality results. The operative concepts here are energetic, common objectives, work well together, enjoy and high quality results.

In my own experience as a consultant, when a client asks for a team-building workshop, we normally do a team diagnosis first to determine where the team and where they could improve their connectivity. We also employ the action learning methodology, which ensures the transfer of learning from the training venue to the work situation. Otherwise, we recommend a strategic or operational planning workshop instead of an outright team-building workshop. When carefully thought out and planned and adroitly facilitated, a planning meeting is a more effective and natural team-building intervention.

In order to build a team, the members of a team must first have a reason for coming together. The team must have a shared vision, mission, values and goals. On leadership, Anatole France once said, "Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people's curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them. Put there just a spark. If there is some good inflammable stuff, it will catch fire."

And finally, some words from a reader, "For me a leader is someone who can inspire his followers to be leaders themselves," says Giles Ivan A. Aquino, OSC Don Bosco Technical College, Mandaluyong City.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos @Aquino.ZZN.com)

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PEOPLE at WORK

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Harassed gov't employee fears whitewash

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

I READ your articles featuring both Lioness and Enlightened Doctor. These write-ups really helped me a lot in pursuing my case against my immediate supervisor. I am a government employee and I have filed several counts of sexual harassment against my supervisor. At first, I did not want to file because his girlfriend, who is a co-employee, is known to be rich, powerful and influential. But with the law on my side, I am now on the winning edge. My problem is I believe the pitiful girlfriend is now using her influence and meddling with the case. How can I be assured that justice will be on my side?

What other related violations can I file against him to further stabilize my case? How do I make sure that there will be no whitewash? I don't have enough money to pursue the case in court but I want to take it there if ever the penalty due to my supervisor is not served. What move or steps can I take?

Here are a few things my supervisor did to me. He keeps asking me for sexual favors. He humiliates me in front of my co-employees because I never obliged his offers. He encourages my co-employees to say nasty things about me. He does other things that are too appalling to write about.

Kindly help me as this has greatly affected my work and my family. Thank you very much.

Justice

I am truly amazed at the number of letters I have received complaining of sexual harassment from our female readers. I realize the great importance, and yet the lack of, gender sensitivity education. Education may in fact liberate these men who engage in sexual harassment from their "macho" view of the opposite sex as simply sexual objects to feed their bloated egos. All this time I thought that gender sensitivity was widespread in government as compared to the private sector.

Recently, I received a letter from Gabriela, inviting interested readers to join them in their Combat Triple S campaign against sex trafficking, sexual harassment and sex discrimination. On Feb. 22, they will be holding a forum at 1:30 p.m. at the University Hostel in UP Diliman. Their campaign aims to create general public awareness and organize direct action by women to seek redress for grievances and work for measures to protect the rights of women among others. You can get in touch with them at phone nos. 371-2302 or 374-3451. They provide counseling services, legal services, advocacy campaign and training and education.

Gabriela defines sexual harassment as occurring when a woman is subjected to any unsolicited, demeaning or offensive sexual attention or malicious action that creates fear, difficulties or a feeling of insecurity in her work or loss of opportunity. This includes criticism about her appearance or any part of her body. The harassment may be verbal, physical or visual.

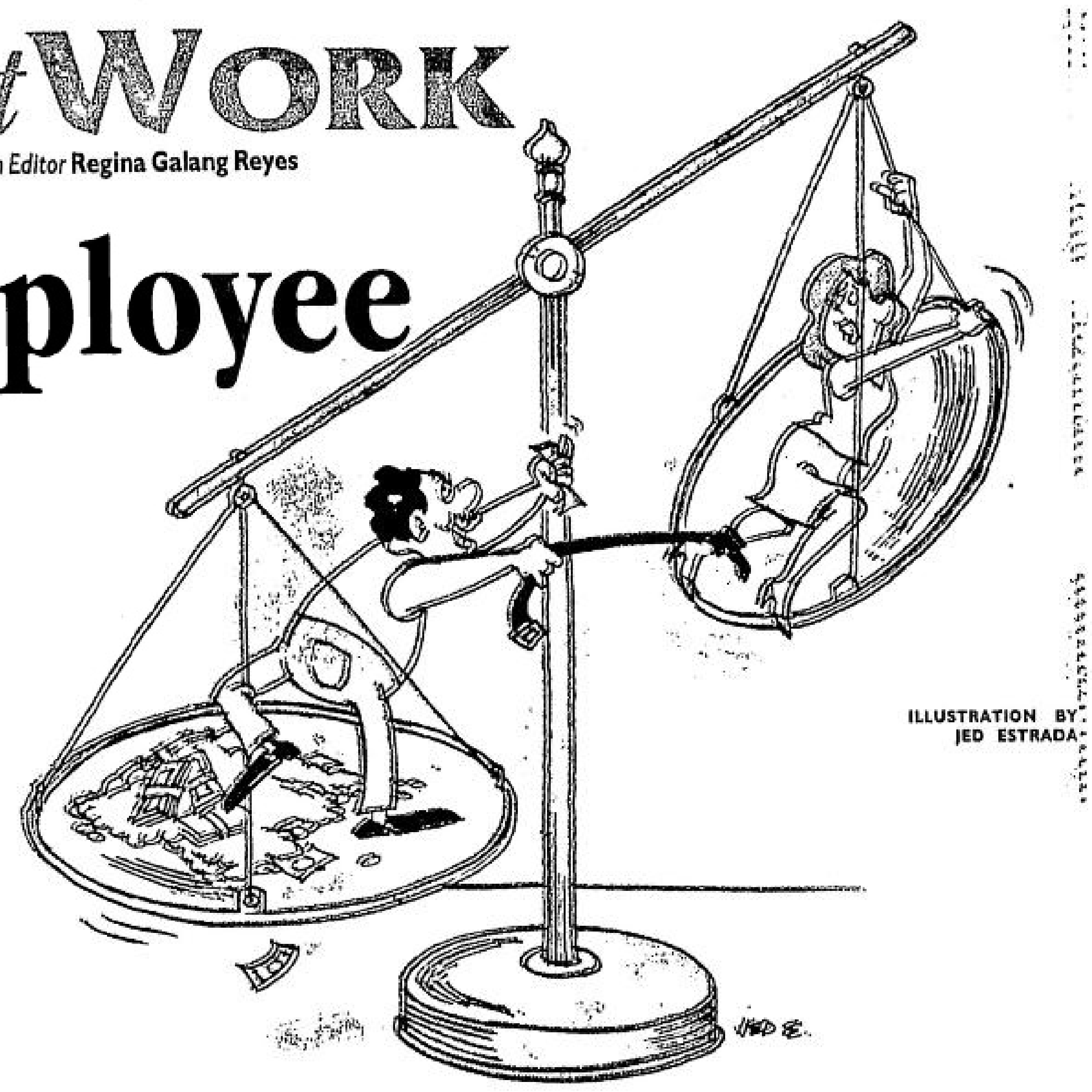


ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

Penalties

In an earlier article, I wrote about Republic Act 7877 known as the " Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995." Based on this, Atty. Edwin Lacierda gives his legal opinion. The circumstances you enumerated fall under the work-related sexual harassment provisions of the law in that "the acts would result in an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment for the employee." The penalty under this law is imprisonment from one to six months or a fine from P10,000 to P20,000.

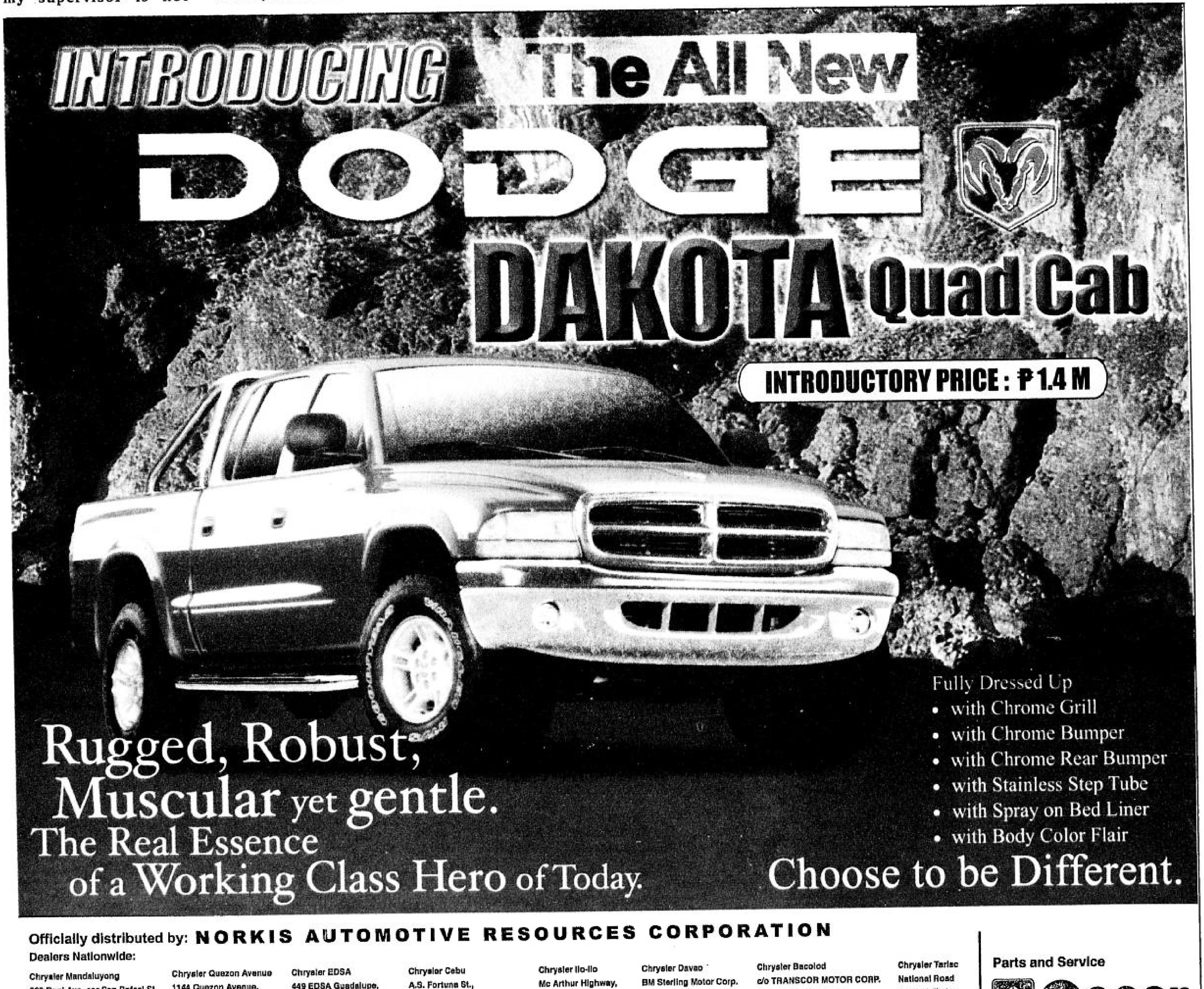
In addition, under the same law, you may file an independent action for damages against your supervisor and the head of office, if the latter fails to take remedial action upon learning of the sexual harassment of her personnel. By the way, the head of office is duty bound under the law to resolve, settle or prosecute the sexual harassment charge. Otherwise, the head will also be liable solidarily for damages.

Penal Code

In addition, you can file a case against your supervisor for acts of lasciviousness which is punishable under Article 336 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines. The penalty for this crime is imprisonment from six months and one day to six years. Generally, cases like this descend into a "he said, she said" contest. To strengthen your case, you must rely not only on the strength of your convictions but must also present witnesses who will testify strongly on your behalf. They could be fellow employees who witnessed the sexual advances or those ordered by your supervisor to call you unprintable names. In this manner, no amount of wealth or influence can sway the truth.

Finally, Atty. Lacierda suggests that you may complain to the incumbent chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, Ms Karina Constantino David, an avowed nationalist and feminist. As a saying in law goes, "let justice be done though the heavens fall." We continue to pray for your safety and well being.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*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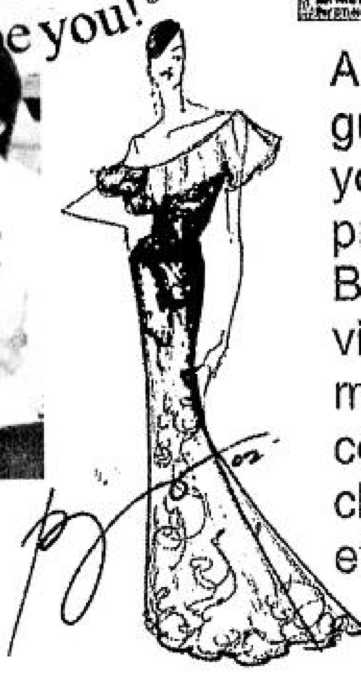
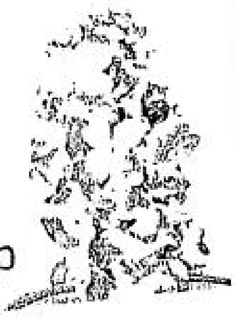


All of this reading is guaranteed to give you the feel of being prom king and queen. But why settle for virtual? Make your most 'kilig' dream come true. Grab that chance and be a royal even for just one night! That—or Carrie?



It's that time of the year when girls have to look marvelous, fabulous and a little fabricated, what with the tons of makeup and excessive primming. Ah, all these for the prom!—that most important night in a girl's life—after, of course, the first ear-pierce, first perm and first 'kikay' kit

To make the prom season extra memorable, 2bU! takes you on the highs and lows and extra-lows of 'proming'—the characters who make the prom world, the new looks that spell either fashion heaven or fashion hell, the friendly neighborhood 'kosturera' who definitely charges friendly fees, celebrities and their most embarrassing prom experiences, the best prom movies, and others

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ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*

I lost it at the prom, er, I mean, the movies

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

THE FIRST time I heard of prom was when my sister had hers back in 1992. I thought it was crap since you had to dress up, pick up the tab, talk and dance with a guy you barely knew the whole night. Movies like "Carrie" didn't help either.

But before the millennium and my prom came, Hollywood started coming out with teen movies with the prom plot or had that prom scene as the ending, and so the movies made me want to go. And I did go to my prom, all right. I wasn't really Carrie, but it was like a prom movie where my friends had the usual fairy-tale and nightmare stories. Basically, prom movies give us either the "feel-good" or "feel-bad" feeling.

> In a sense the highlight of high school, the prom has become, not surprisingly, a movie genre

'She's All That' (1999)

Prom story: I surveyed a lot of people and this tops the list. Freddie Prinze Jr. stars as Zach Siler, the ultimate trophy date (looks, grades, jock status, etc.), while Rachael Leigh Cook plays Laney Boggs, the ultimate disaster date (loser status, nuff said). After Zach's girlfriend dumps him for a washed-out MTV star, he gets on a betting game with his pals that he can turn any girl into prom queen... in six weeks. It is tough for Zach, but it looks easy for the rest of us since he is Freddie Prinze Jr.—and who can turn down Freddie Prinze Jr.? But Zach eventually develops something for his pretty little project.

Prom moment: The very unforgettable "Rockafella Skank" dance number that a lot of proms fail to approximate.

'Carrie' (1976)

Prom story: This Bian de Palma movie is for those who are sick of the usual cheesy ending (and I'm not talking about "American Pie" either). Carrie (Sissy Spacek) is the loner we see in school. She has a hard time being "normal" and her psychotic, religious-to-the-bits mother isn't helping either (the mom never bothers to explain menstruation to Carrie). Her friends make her life hell all the time and she isn't aware that she can get back at them through her telekinetic powers. A classmate takes pity on Carrie after her traumatic first-period experience. She asks her boyfriend to take Carrie to the prom and everything goes well, except that the other kids have other plans for Carrie.

Prom moment: The last scene that inspired the music video of "Supermodel" by Jill Sobule.

'Pretty in Pink' (1986)

Prom story: A classic teen/prom movie by John Hughes who is always synonymous with high school movies. Smart but less fortunate Andie Walsh, played by '80s teen princess Molly Ringwald, is a girl from the wrong side of the tracks (think Laney Boggs in the '80s). She makes her own clothes, drives a pink car and hangs out with her best friend, New Waver Duckie (Jon Cryer). She meets Blane (Andrew McCarthy), a high school senior—handsome and "richie"—and the both of them develop an interest. But, as usual, friends almost ruin everything. Blâne finally asks her to the prom but later avoids her and withdraws his invite in true jerk fashion.

Prom moment: I can't give away the great ending, but all I can say is... I hope in 20 years I wouldn't be super embarrassed to look at my prom pictures.

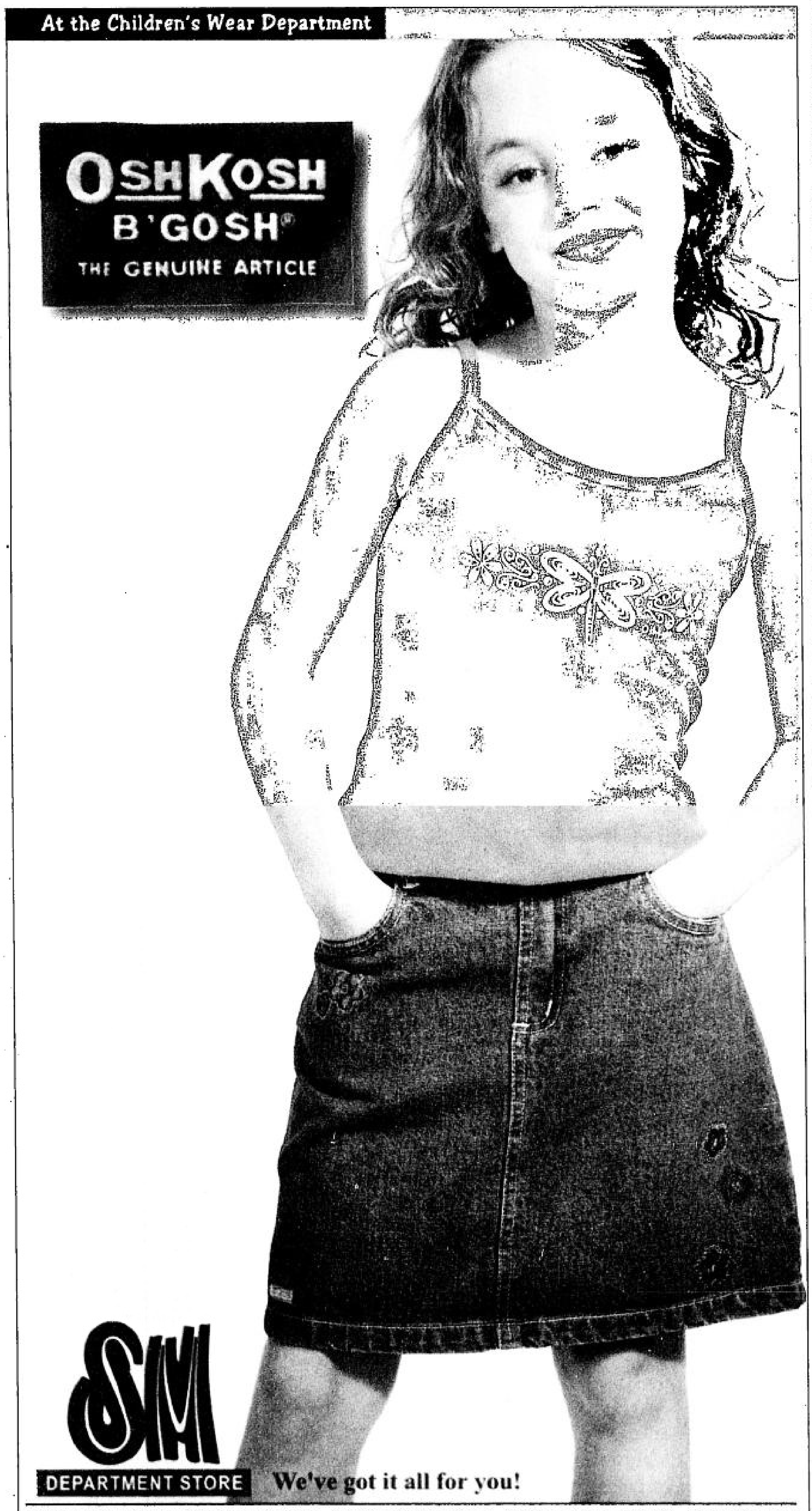
'Never Been Kissed' (1999)

Prom story: Drew Barrymore stars as Josie Gellar, the boring 25-year-old copy editor of a Chicago-based newspaper. She finally gets her break as undercover reporter, but she has to go back to high school, a place she tries to forget ("Josie Grossie! Josie Grossie!"). In her first week in school she's back to being a loser until her brother (David Arquette) poses as a student and turns her high school life upside down. Young and cool popular teacher Mr. Coulson catches her eye and the story is now on him. She blows up her cover on prom night, but eventually gets that kiss in the end.

Prom moment: The wacky theme of the prom, "Love through the Ages," makes us green with envy at all of the students' effort to dress up. And the scene where Josie is being crowned, a far cry from her first prom experience.

Other movies: "American Pie," "10 Things I Hate about You" and "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion"

E-mail the author at chris_trent_thom @lycos.com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Dislodge dead skin with whitening lotion

911
Kinny Salas

OUR arms, legs and especially knees and elbows are darker than the rest of us. We just want evenly toned skin and, yes, perhaps get a little whiter overall. We have no problem doing this with our face and neck and as our torso and thighs don't get sun exposure, they are light colored. Our toes are also darker than the rest of the feet and it's embarrassing to wear open-toed shoes. Is there a whitening lotion that works? The ones we have tried ended up drying our skin after a while and don't seem to be working fast enough or at all.

PATRICIA, NOELLE, CANDY AND LALA

Whitening lotions work by loosening up dead skin cells while softening the skin. Unfortunately, the whitening agent does dry up skin to hasten the sloughing off of the dead, darker one to give way to new lighter skin. You probably have the right product but the technique is wrong.

To maximize the performance of your whitening lotion without drying your skin, apply lotion on the areas you want lightened after you shower. Do not towel-dry skin! While still damp, massage lotion to the areas you want lightened. Concentrate especially on your toes, knees and elbows. Massaging on to wet skin will trap the moisture from the water and prevent dryness later in the day and, at the same time, skin is at its softest after a bath so it's easier to dislodge dead skin. Lotions I have tried are Nivea skin whitening, Godiva and Extraderm.

Deodorant stains

I HATE deodorant stains! I love black clothes because they are so chic but the stain from my deodorant ruins the look. Sometimes I'm already out of the house when the stain starts appearing. Is there a deodorant that doesn't do this? I didn't wear deodorant once and someone discreetly told me I had B.O. so going without is not an option! I don't always have the time to spare to wait for it to dry because I am a very busy girl.

SAKLOLO SANDY

I know exactly what you mean. When wearing something sleeveless, apply the deodorant after you have gotten dressed. Wear the blazer or coat after it has dried. For tight, dark colored shirts or outfits with sleeves, try using a *tawas* rock after you have showered on damp underarms and trust me, no deodorant stains. Ask your helpers where you can buy it, as this is what they use most of the time. I recommend the rock because there are so many fake powders going around that have mixtures.

Certain drawbacks could be: a) You won't smell but it doesn't keep you dry as long as other deodorants. b) You may be allergic. If your underarms start itching, discontinue use. Back to drying your deodorant! c) You may scrape your skin as some rocks are jagged-edged. Make sure your underarm is wet (with water) before you rub it on and look for the smooth side.

Perks? It whitens your underarms by exfoliating the dead skin while preventing odor and it doesn't feel sticky and leave gross residue like deodorant. What to do with the already present deodorant marks? Give it a rubdown with a face towel soaked in warm water. No warm water? Toss a damp towel in the microwave for 10 seconds then rub on. Use a hairdryer to speed up drying process of shirt.

Whiten Loti
JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 8974805

Going against the prom grain

PROM king and queen

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Cathy Young

There's more to prom than the glamour and the frivolity. Why not try a little charity?

THE HIGH school promenade. It conjures images of excited girls dressed in jewel-encrusted gowns, balloons and crepe paper adorning a ballroom's ceiling, and couples slow-dancing to the strains of a sentimental song. Actually, proms involve more of the not-so-glamorous details, but high school teens are fixated on the glamour.

But to make prom night extra special, some prom organizing committees deviate from the cookie-cutter prom mold by cooking up themes and novelties. The themes may range from the staple masquerade ball to the more outlandish ones, like under-the-sea motifs. The novelties include transporting an old Chevy into the ballroom (for a '50s-themed prom, perhaps) or holding the prom on a cruise ship docked at Manila Bay. But the prom that really breaks the conventional mold is the alternative prom organized by some third-year students from Woodrose.

Something different

Actually, the girls from Woodrose weren't the first to hold an alternative prom. The idea dates back to two years ago, when Southridge pulled a similar stint. Paola Tañada, a freshman then, heard about it and was intrigued by the idea. The prom is an indispensable part of high school life, but more often than not, it comes in an expensive packaging. Prom tickets usually range from P2,500-P3,000, and one must have to spend for a gown/suit, makeup, corsage/boutonnière, etc. Instead of spending so much for just one night, why not use it for something that will be both meaningful and socially relevant at the same time? The answer came in the form of the alternative prom.

When Paola reached her junior year, she teamed up with Rica Abesa, Sabs Elane and Mags Valdez to organize an alternative prom. Paola and Sabs looked for a beneficiary and chose to sponsor the Sigla ng Buhay Foundation, which had a center for street children. Enchanted Kingdom gave all the couples discounts and no entrance fees for the kids. Mags was in charge of internal operations, mostly reminding people of what they had to do, while Rica was the overhead organizer. Little by little, their plans fell into place.

Alternative scene

Enchanted Kingdom was the place and Feb. 16 was the special day. The event was not a school activity and, just like in any prom, attendance was not compulsory. News of the alternative prom spread through word of mouth and in the end, 15 girls decided to go. The girls and their dates were each assigned to an unprivileged child from the Sigla ng Buhay Foundation to enjoy the rides and a puppet show from 1-4 p.m. At the end of the afternoon, everyone assembled together to vote for the prom king and queen, the best dressed, the most daring, and the usual prom awardees lineup. The "Best Kuya" and "Best Ate" were added to the list. Personalized plaques, compilation CDs and teddy bears were the prizes and homemade picture frames were given away as souvenirs.

THE ORGANIZER with her kid

Conspicuously missing from the alternative prom scene were the formal clothes, the stuffily elegant hotel ballroom and the tension between couples. No one seemed to mind at all. With a self-contented air, one of the guys acknowledged that he preferred his casual getup to the suit he would have worn to a typical prom. Near him, other couples chattered and laughed freely. The kids assigned to them were wide-eyed with excitement—this was their first time at Enchanted Kingdom and they were having a blast. In the background, some vaudeville tunes were playing. At least this prom didn't have David Pomeranz.

Bringing your date to a prom in the middle of Enchanted Kingdom with a kid in tow may sound strange, but that's the alternative prom for you. This time around, the magic of the prom doesn't lie in looking glamorous or having your first dance with your date but in reveling in casual fun and being able to share (with your date) the experience of making a child happy. Kudos goes to the Woodrose girls who dared to try something both different and socially relevant. The traditional prom will always be an experience unique in itself, but so is the alternative prom.

With reports from Tammy David

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com

BUGS10
BUGS3
DAFFY08
DAFFY5
PEPE01
PEPE02
PEPE03
PEPE06
PEPE07
PEPE08
PEPE09
PEPE10
PEPE11
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PEPE20
PEPE22
PORKY4
PORKY5
PUSSYFO2
PUSSYFO3
SPEEDY02
SYLVES06
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Icons service currently works with the following models:
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Sendo: J520 (using Nokia keywords)

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0269. Series of 2002.

Every day can be a ball

"DO you think they like us?"

WAITING is such sweet sorrow.

YOUNG LOVE, SWEET LOVE. On Bernard: white long-sleeved dress shirt with lace detail from Defect; cross-cut dark denims by GAP from U of Rustan's. On Jean: Due smocked off-shoulder top paired with silk shantung skirt; big-faced purple watch from Defect. On Jazz: flower-printed chiffon peasant top, paired with silk skirt, both from Due; Avatar earrings, bags, stylist's own. On Charles: U black tuxedo shirt and Dockers flat-front khakis from Rustan's

PENSIVE PRINCE PINING FOR HIS PRINCESS. Ivan wears a white long-sleeved top with tricolored pipe cleaner detail on the neckline from Defect; black Levi's Engineered Jeans from U of Rustan's; rhinestone-studded crown from Cheryl Tiu

PROM PRINCESS LOST IN THE WILDERNESS. Swirled spaghetti-strapped top with gartered waist and white skirt with slit, both from Young VIP, U of Rustan's; beaded wire choker by Avatar, stylist's own

By Tiffany Limsico and Happy David
2bU! Correspondents
Photos by Romy Homillada

IS the month or so of agonizing over your prom worth it? Not when you must pay a blue-collar worker's salary for a ball gown whose train only gets trampled on by other promgoers. Not when you have to listen to another bad joke from your prom date when the truth is that you can't stop staring at his horrid tie with a golfing teddy bear print.

Don't get us wrong. We love the prom. But it doesn't have to be stuffy or silly. It doesn't have to be in an uptight ballroom where they are playing "King and Queen of Hearts" for the nth time. Nor do you have to be trapped in a corset that cuts off your breathing or a suit that makes you look like your dad.

And whether you're solo or stuck with someone, the prom can actually be one of the most memorable milestones in your high school life. If you're still sulking in some corner after a traumatic prom date rejection, fret not. There is hope outside the gleaming chandeliers of the ballroom, because in the bright light of day, to paraphrase Francesca Lia Block, life is the big romance.

JUMPING off prom jitters.

"DO you have a stable job?" On him: Dockers army green polo top and flat-front khakis both from Rustan's. On her: olive green top with mustard lace detail from People are People; bronze studded suede camel skirt by Dollhouse from U of Rustan's; amber ring also from People are People. Footwear from Shoe Salon

WHOEVER SAID YOU HAVE TO BE OFF TO A PROM TO LOOK GOOD? On Bernard: Black and white soccer ball necktie, stylist's own. On Jean: Young VIP tube top paired with beige peasant skirt from Brand F; sandals from Suki, and Avatar necklace, stylist's own. On Jazz: XOXO sheer mock turtleneck, stylist's own

STYLING BY HAPPY DAVID
LOCATION: TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS
SPECIAL THANKS TO: JERRY, CHERYL TIU, ANNABELLE ONG

CROWN YOURSELF KING OF THE DAY. Bernard wears a red linen top with crocheted flowers from Defect; shoes from Shoe Salon

Look your best on prom night

MAKE your prom night an evening to remember with your dream dress from SM!

The prom look of the moment combines touches of romance with young sophistication. Soft fabrics—chiffon, silk and crepe; a sprinkling of beadwork; asymmetrical details; and a flirty flower corsage capture the exuberant and elegant spot of this year's prom set.

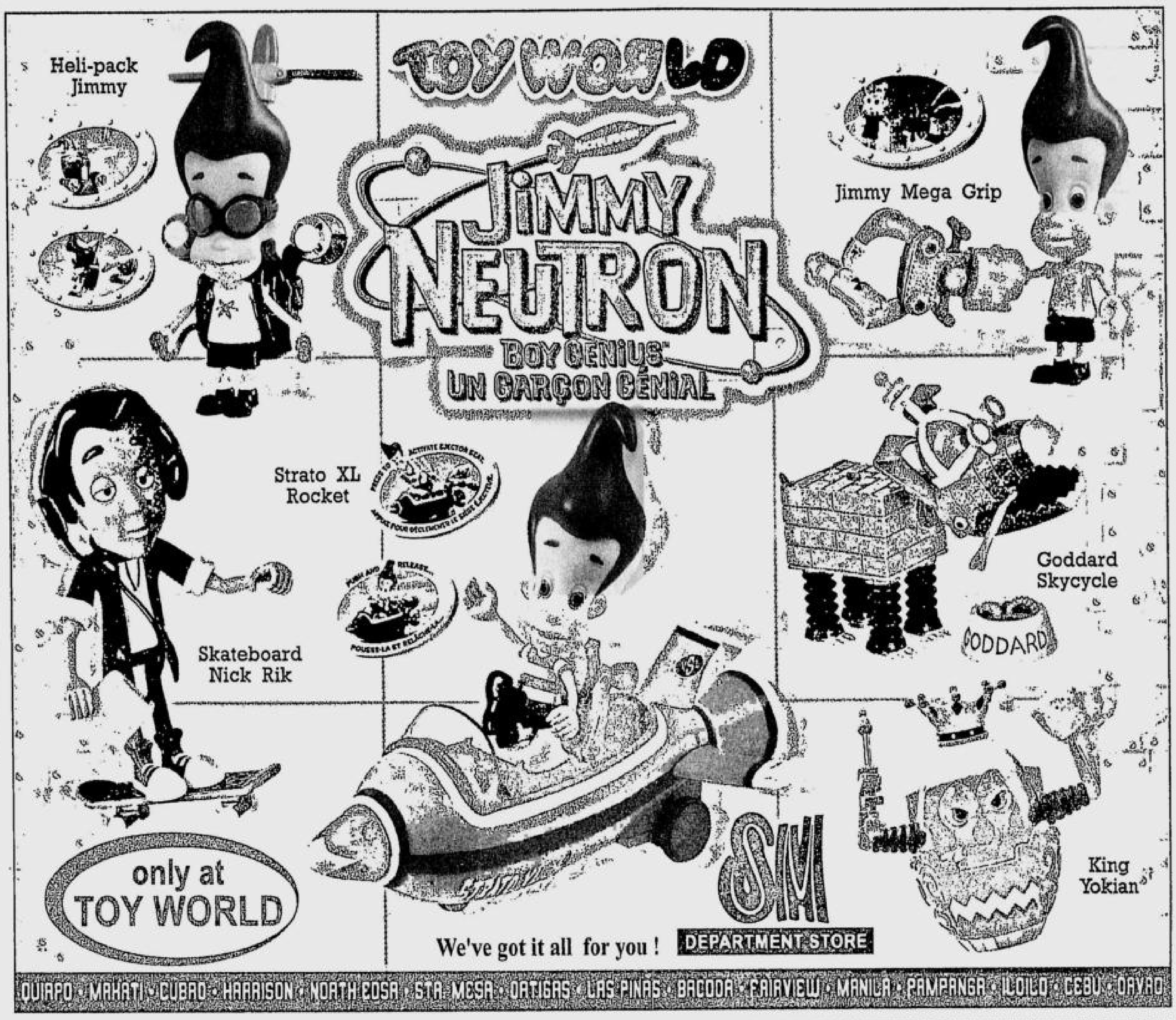
And if you're looking for the perfect prom dress for your figure, keep the following tips from SM in mind:

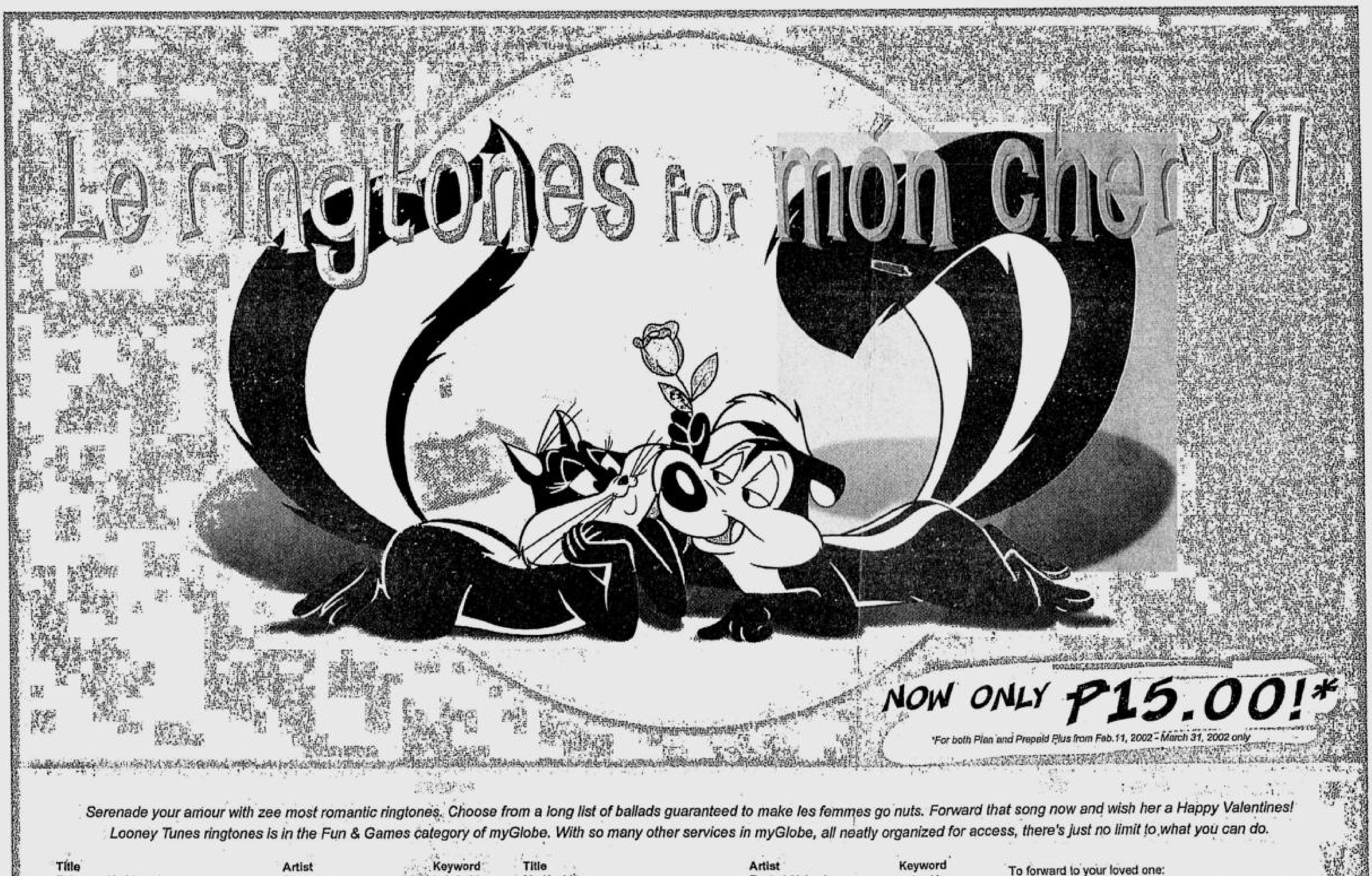
- Athletic. The strapless sheath and simple strapped dresses work best for you. Don't wear clothes that are top full or gathered at the waist.
- Hourglass or curvy. You can wear pretty much anything and it will look good on your figure. Semi-fitted dresses are preferred over totally tight gowns as these will lengthen your figure and give you a sexier and more sophisticated look.
- Round about the waist. You will be surprised at the range of dress types you can wear if you just keep it simple and open-necked. Low necklines, sweetheart necklines, drop waist and empire-cut dresses work best for you.
- Slim and boyish. Just don't wear anything that is too full or gathered at the waist. An A-line dress will complement your figure.
- Pear shaped. A-line dresses, especially those cut along empire lines, will flatter your figure. Remember to keep it simple below the waist—no piping, trimming, edging below this area.

The Prom Collection is available at the SM Boutique Square of all SM stores.

A BLACK dress with side slit accented with contrast lining and a lime green flower corsage.

BLUE-BEADED dress with asymmetrical neckline.

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Serenade your amour with zee most romantic ringtones. Choose from a long list of ballads guaranteed to make les femmes go nuts. Forward that song now and wish her a Happy Valentines! Looney Tunes ringtones is in the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do.

Title	Artist	Keyword
Baby can i hold you	Boyzone	babyhold
Bakit ba	Ella May Saison	bakitba
Bakit pa	Jessa Zaragoza	bakitpa
Be my lady	Martin Nievera	bemylady
Can't take my eyes off you	Andy Williams	cantake
Crush ng bayan	Cris Villonco	crushng
Dahil tanging ikaw	Jaya	dahil
Di ba't ikaw	Jessa Zaragoza	dibatika
Dito sa puso ko	Jaya	ditosapu
Grow old with you	Adam Sandler	growold
I can dream about you	Dan Hartman	dreamabt
If you could read my mind	Stars on 54/Jeannie Riley	readmind
Ikaw lang at ako	Sharon Cuneta	ikawlang
Kaba	Toolsie Guevarra	kaba
Looking through the eyes of love	Broadway Hit - Ice Castle	lukngtru
Mahal pa rin kita	Rockstar	mahalpar
Mr. Kupido	Rachel Alejandro	mrkupido
Para sa'yo	Randy Santiago	parasayo
Seasons of love	Theme from Rent	seasnluv and seasnluv1
Stars	Simply Red	stars
Stop! In the name of love	Diana Ross	stop
Til my heartaches end	Ella May Saison	tilmy
To sir with love	Norman Percival and his Orchestra	tosir
Wedding march	Mendelssohn, Felix	wedding2
Will you still love me tomorrow	Carole King	luvmetom and willyou
You can't hurry love	Phil Collins	canthury
You make me feel like a natural woman	Carole King	woman
You to me are everything	Real Thing	u2me
Your smiling face	James Taylor	ursmilin

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N GROWOLD 0917XXXXXXX

1. Type in N KEYWORD Mobile Number Example: N GROWOLD 0917XXXXXXX

2345

2. Send to 2345 and wait for tone.

Want Pepé Le Pew on your phone? Just follow the instructions below:

1. Type TC keyword Ex. TC pepe13
2. Send to 2301

PEPE13 PEPE14 PEPE15

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Ericsson: GH688, GH768, GH788, 1888, T10s, T18s, T28s, Ericsson users must encode their ringtones using the Tone Guide.
Sendo: S200, J520, P200 (using Nokia keywords)

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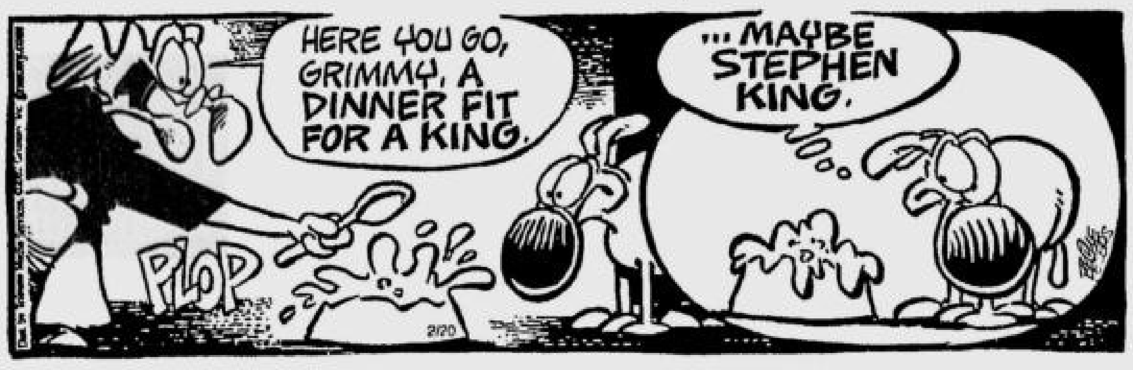
LOONEY TUNES

myGlobe mobile e-services
NO LIMITS

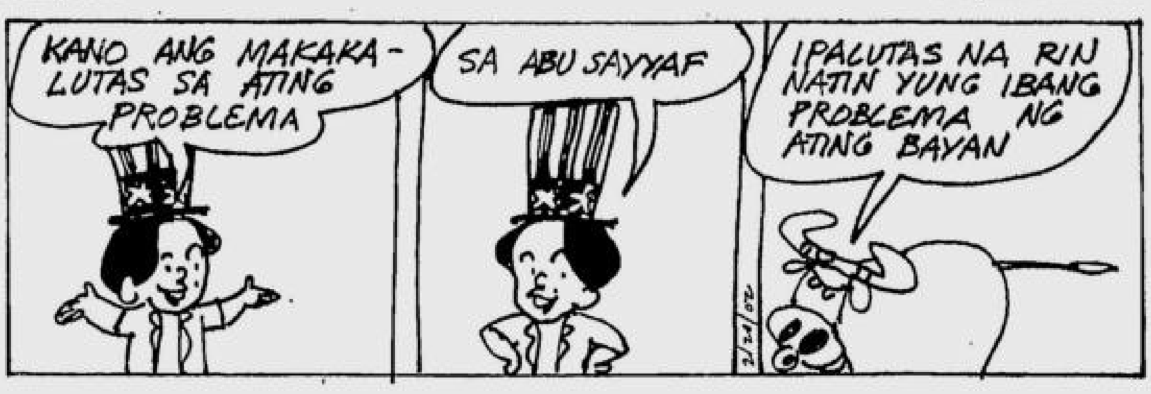
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HERE YOU GO, GRIMMY, A DINNER FIT FOR A KING.
PLOP
2/20
...MAYBE STEPHEN KING.

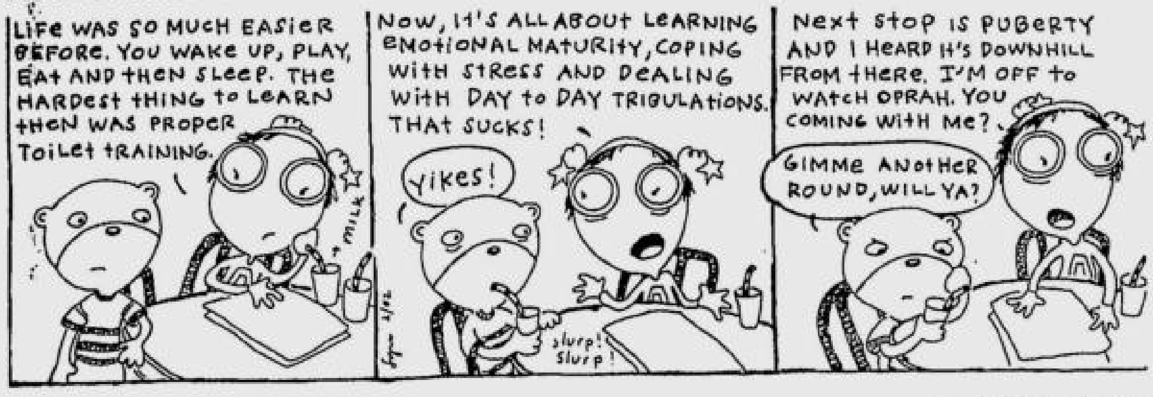
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KANO ANG MAKAKALUTAS SA ATING PROBLEMA
SA ABU SAYYAF
IPALUTAS NA RIN NATIN YUNG IBANG PROBLEMA NG ATING BAYAN

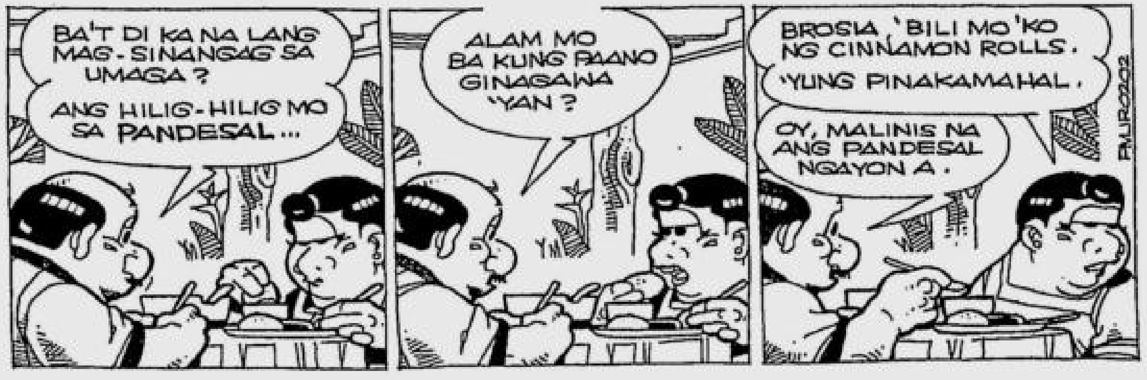
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LIFE WAS SO MUCH EASIER BEFORE. YOU WAKE UP, PLAY, EAT AND THEN SLEEP. THE HARDEST THING TO LEARN THEN WAS PROPER TOILET TRAINING.
MILK
NOW, IT'S ALL ABOUT LEARNING EMOTIONAL MATURITY, COPING WITH STRESS AND DEALING WITH DAY TO DAY TRIBULATIONS. THAT SUCKS!
YIKES!
SLURP! SLURP!
NEXT STOP IS PUBERTY AND I HEARD IT'S DOWNHILL FROM THERE. I'M OFF TO WATCH OPRAH. YOU COMING WITH ME?
GIMME ANOTHER ROUND, WILL YA?

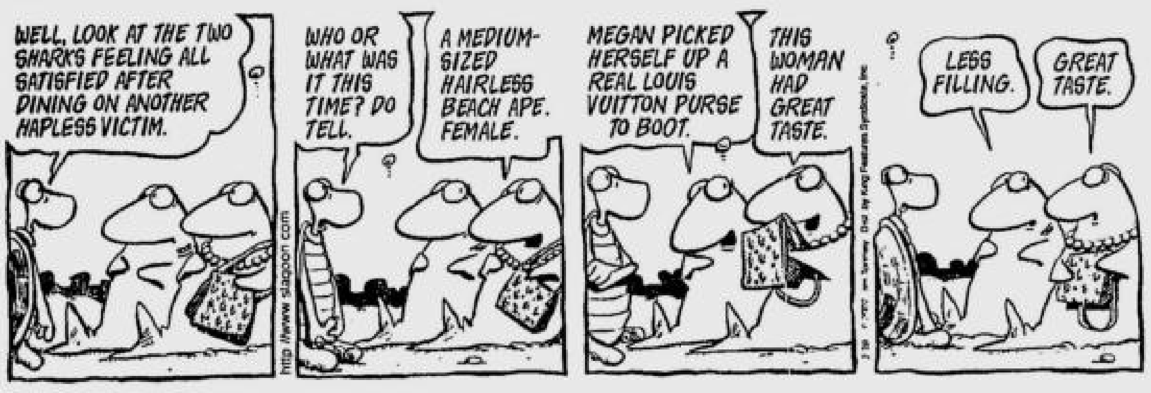
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BA'T DI KA NA LANG MAG-SINANGAG SA UMAGA?
ANG HILIG-HILIG MO SA PANDESAL...
ALAM MO BA KUNG PAANO GINAGAWA 'YAN?
BROSIA, 'BILI MO 'KO NG CINNAMON ROLLS. 'YUNG PINAKAMAHAL.
OY, MALINIS NA ANG PANDESAL NGAYON A.

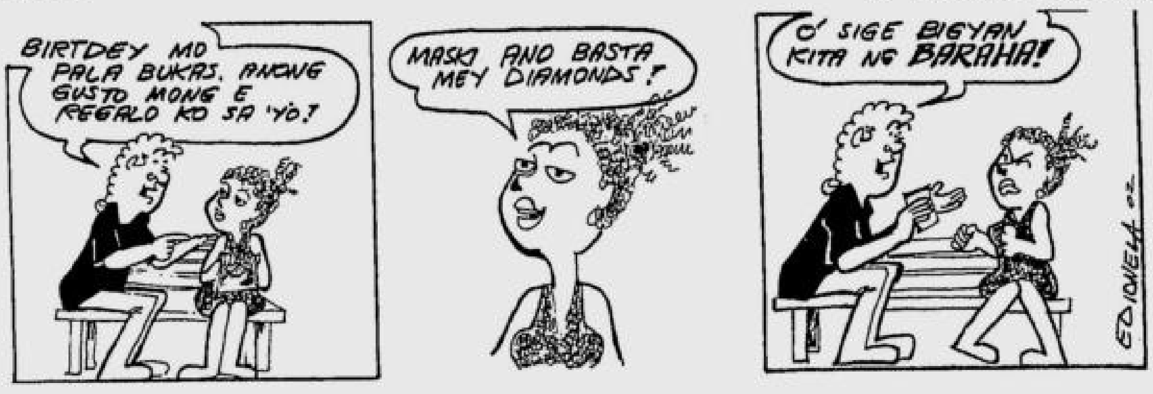
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WELL, LOOK AT THE TWO SHARKS FEELING ALL SATISFIED AFTER DINING ON ANOTHER HAPLESS VICTIM.
WHO OR WHAT WAS IT THIS TIME? DO TELL.
A MEDIUM-SIZED HAIRLESS BEACH APE. FEMALE.
MEGAN PICKED HERSELF UP A REAL LOUIS VUITTON PURSE TO BOOT.
THIS WOMAN HAD GREAT TASTE.
LESS FILLING.
GREAT TASTE.
http://www.slagoon.com

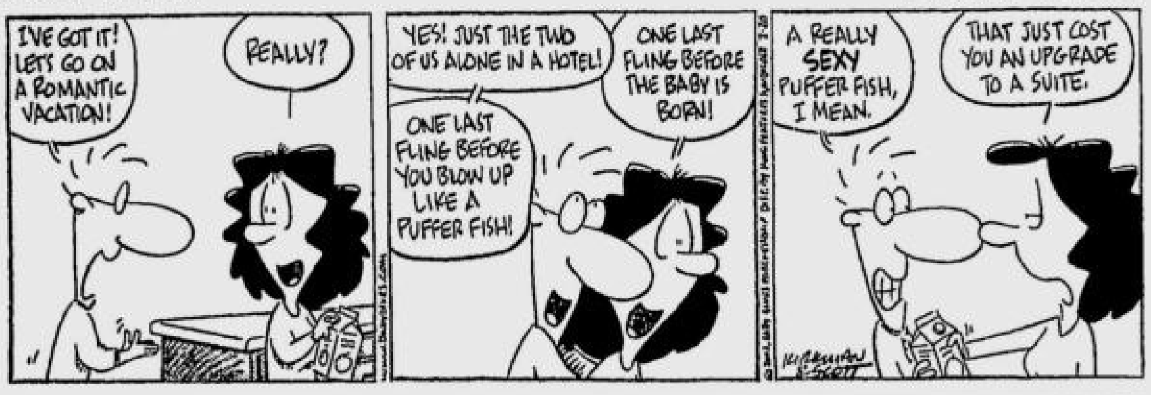
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BIRTDEY MO PALA BUKAS. ANONG GUSTO MONG E REGALO KO SA 'YO?
MASKI ANO BASTA MEY DIAMONDS!
O' SIGE BIGYAN KITA NG BARAHA!
EDIONELA 02

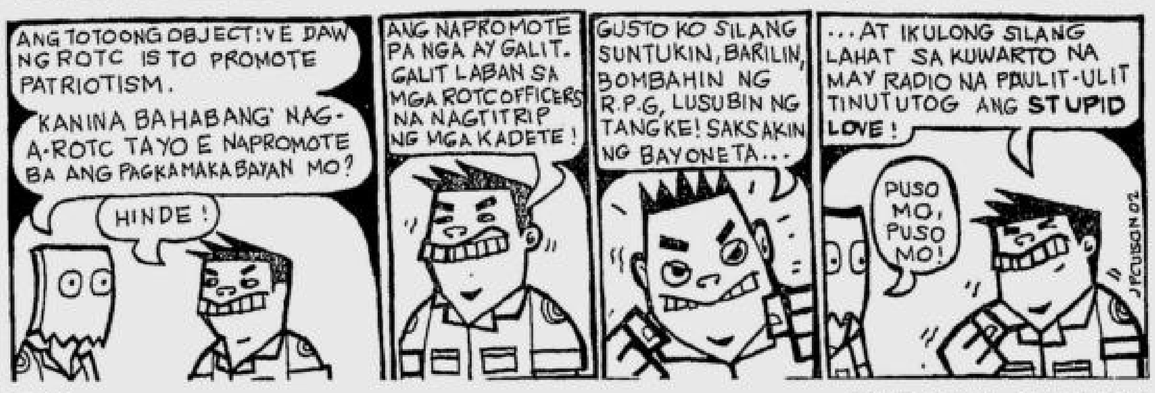
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'VE GOT IT! LET'S GO ON A ROMANTIC VACATION!
REALLY?
YES! JUST THE TWO OF US ALONE IN A HOTEL!
ONE LAST FLING BEFORE THE BABY IS BORN!
ONE LAST FLING BEFORE YOU BLOW UP LIKE A PUFFER FISH!
A REALLY SEXY PUFFER FISH, I MEAN.
THAT JUST COST YOU AN UPGRADE TO A SUITE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ANG TOTOONG OBJECTIVE DAW NG ROTC IS TO PROMOTE PATRIOTISM.
KANINA BAHABANG' NAG-A-ROTC TAYO E NAPROMOTE BA ANG PAGKAMAKABAYAN MO?
HINDE!
ANG NAPROMOTE PA NGA AY GALIT. GALIT LABAN SA MGA ROTC OFFICERS NA NAGTITRIP NG MGA KADETE!
GUSTO KO SILANG SUNTUKIN, BARILIN, BOMBAHIN NG R.P.G, LUSUBIN NG TANGKE! SAKSAKIN NG BAYONETA...
...AT IKULONG SILANG LAHAT SA KUWARTO NA MAY RADIO NA PAULIT-ULIT TINUTUTOG ANG STUPID LOVE!
PUSO MO, PUSO MO!
JPCUISON 02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Altman, Sidney Poitier, Andrew Shue, Brian Littrell

Happy Birthday: Don't get involved in fast-cash schemes this year. Be reserved in your investments and cautious when dealing with other people's money or possessions. You may be asked to take care of the personal papers of an older individual who can no longer do the job alone. Your numbers are 9, 13, 19, 24, 31, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Friendships should take top priority today. Do something special for someone who has stood by you in the past. Your kind words will be well received.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful of anyone trying to talk you into parting with your cash. Limitations will result if you spend foolishly on something that is an out-and-out risk.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be so down. If you let emotional matters cause upset, you will miss out on some rather unusual opportunities to meet interesting people.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have to keep a close watch on who's doing what today. Gossip and misinformation will cause you grief if you don't keep things straight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be in the limelight today, so be prepared to stand tall and make yourself heard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you thought you could trust is probably trying to steal your ideas. Don't share your intentions with anyone. It's best to work by yourself for the time being.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your interest in different philosophies and cultures will draw you to all sorts of interesting events and seminars today. You stand to make new friends as well as discover information that will help you in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to deal with an older relative today. Be prepared to troubleshoot if you have to regarding his or her financial, legal and health matters. The more you do for this person the better you will feel about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships will be important today. If you are in a relationship, nurture it and it will flourish. If you aren't, get out, attend functions and be open and receptive to people who could possibly become an important part of your future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on work and you won't be sorry. Whether you are at home, volunteering or in the work force you can make a difference and you can get ahead. The more you do to help others the greater the rewards will be in return.

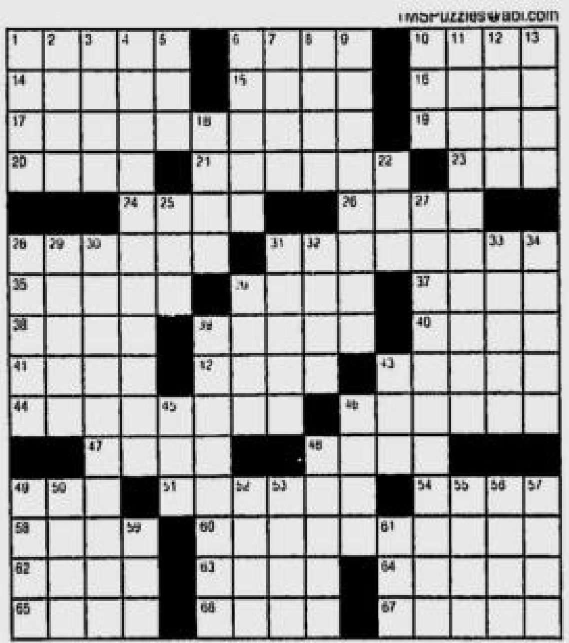
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should plan to get out and have some fun with good friends. The information you discover through the conversations you have will be surprising.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Concentrate on small but important details and you will avoid some of the backlash that you may receive should you get involved in a debate. Work quietly by yourself.

Birthday Baby: You have exceptional creative ability that must be expressed through art or entertainment. You have a desire to be first in all that you do. You are a dreamer and a survivor.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

1/4/02

ACROSS
1 Fails utterly
6 __ mater
10 Resting atop
14 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
15 Shirts for golfers?
16 Commercial transaction
17 This puzzle's theme
19 Crack shots
20 Disney sci-fi flick
21 Gladdened
23 Pugilist's stat
24 Settlement
26 Slight
28 Subcontracted
31 Crowd
35 Class of organic compounds
36 In good health
37 Iridescent gem
38 English sculptor
39 See 31D
40 Spanish hand
41 Author Wister
42 As far as
43 Brief summary
44 Write-offs
46 Aerial combat mission
47 Garden plots
48 Wharf
49 __ Grande
51 Naturally illuminated
54 E.T. vehicles
58 Track shape
60 Ball disguise?
62 Philly's mom
63 Birthright seller
64 Sheer fabric
65 Remnants
66 Quench
67 Cupid's missile

DOWN
1 Thai cash
2 Redolence
3 Office note
4 Original fair-haired girl?
5 Nincompoop
6 Kwajalein or Bikini
7 Singer Horne
8 Come together
9 Put together
10 OAS member
11 Crowded alliance?
12 Ersatz butter
13 Stack TV role
18 Leader
22 __ volente
25 Large shoe width
27 Lodger hearsay?
28 Brother of 63A
29 Conductor Seiji
30 Trustees with nothing to do?
31 With 39A, penny wise?
32 As well
33 Island west of Maui
34 Wed on the wing
36 Shed tears
39 Classifies under a general principle
43 Fish eggs
45 H. Ross Perot Co.
46 In __ (in position)
48 Ruffled pride
49 European capital
50 Boesky or Lendl
52 Astronauts' grp.
53 Would-be atty.'s hurdle
55 So-so
56 Capital on a fjord
57 Distort
59 Paul of guitars
61 Gabor sister

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	I	M	S		E	D	E	R		A	R	O	M	A
U	T	A	H		L	A	T	E		D	A	R	E	D
F	L	Y	O	F	F	T	H	E	H	A	N	D	L	E
F	L	O	O	R		A	E	S	O	P		E	E	L
			I	O	N		R	E	N	T	F	R	E	E
S	T	I	N	T	E	D			D	E	L			
T	A	D		H	O	R	S	E	A	R	O	U	N	D
A	L	E	X			A	I	D			P	R	A	Y
B	E	A	R	W	I	T	N	E	S	S		A	P	E
			A	I	R			N	I	M	B	L	E	R
S	P	R	Y	N	E	S	S		P	A	R			
A	R	E		C	N	O	T	E		L	O	O	T	S
H	O	G	T	H	E	L	I	M	E	L	I	G	H	T
I	N	A	N	E		E	L	M	O		L	E	I	A
B	E	L	T	S		S	T	A	N		S	E	N	T

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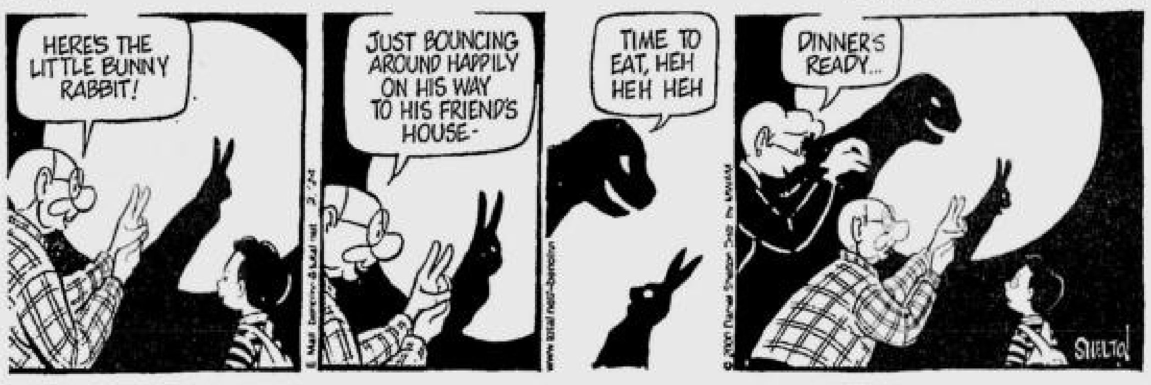
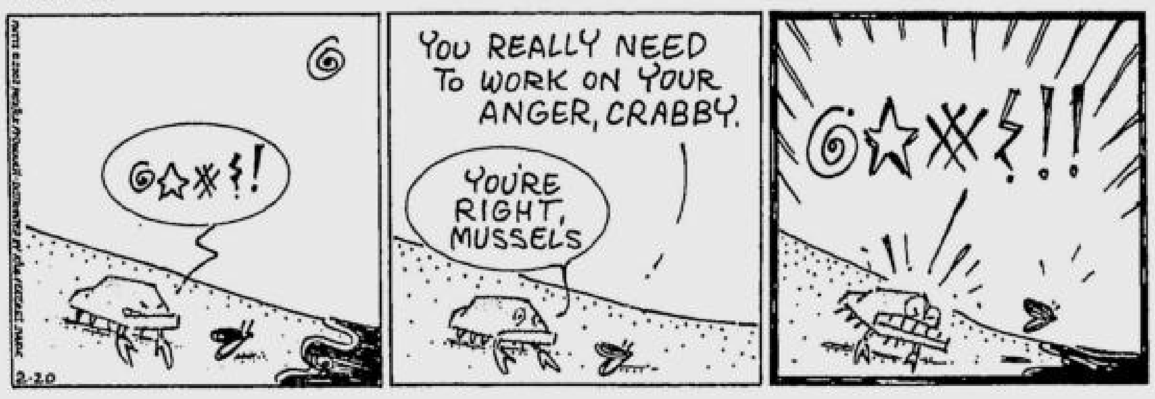
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE'S THE LITTLE BUNNY RABBIT!
JUST BOUNCING AROUND HAPPILY ON HIS WAY TO HIS FRIEND'S HOUSE-
TIME TO EAT, HEH HEH HEH
DINNER'S READY...
SHELTON

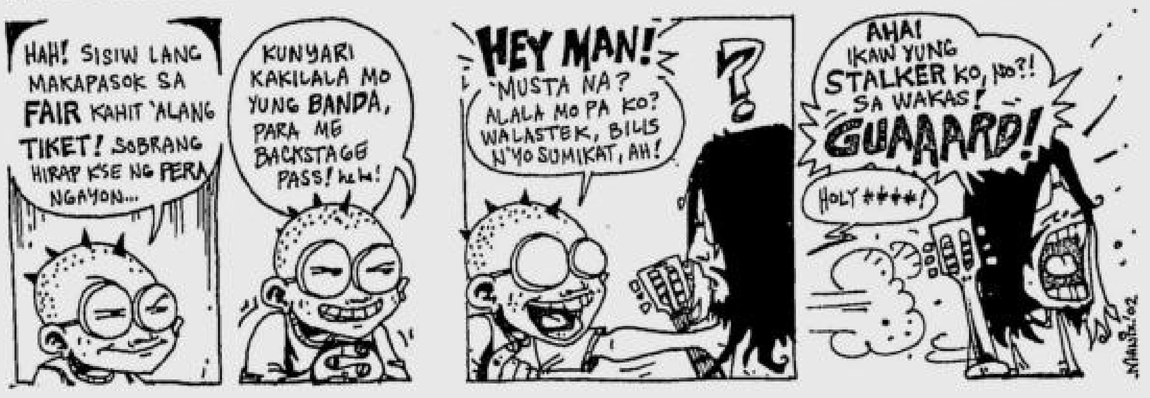
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


@☆※⚡!
YOU REALLY NEED TO WORK ON YOUR ANGER, CRABBY.
YOU'RE RIGHT, MUSSELS
@☆※⚡!!
2-20

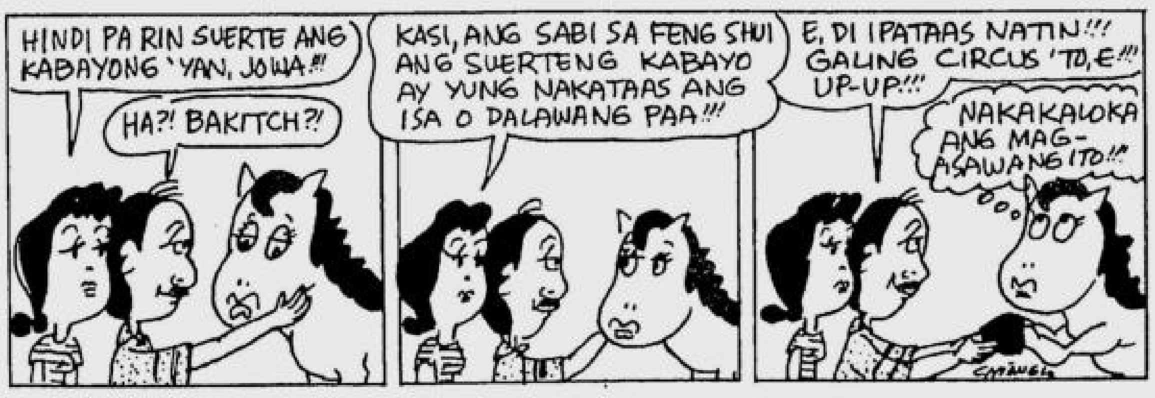
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! SISIW LANG MAKAPASOK SA FAIR KAHIT 'ALANG TIKET! SOBRANG HIRAP KSE NG PERA NGAYON...
KUNYARI KAKILALA MO YUNG BANDA, PARA MG BACKSTAGE PASS! he he!
HEY MAN! 'MUSTA NA? ALALA MO PA KO? WALASTEK, BILIS N'YO SUMIKAT, AH!
AHA! IKAW YUNG STALKER KO, NO?! SA WAKAS! GUAAARD!
HOLY ****!
MANIX 02

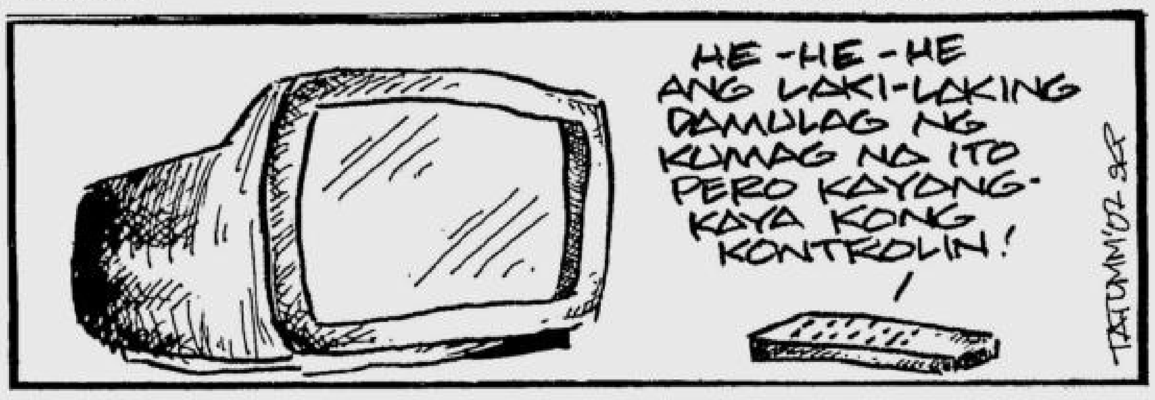
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HINDI PA RIN SUERTE ANG KABAYONG 'YAN, JOWA!!!
HA?! BAKITCH?!
KASI, ANG SABI SA FENG SHUI ANG SUERTENG KABAYO AY YUNG NAKATAAS ANG ISA O DALAWANG PAA!!!
E, DI IPATAAS NATIN!!! GALING CIRCUS 'TO, E!!! UP-UP!!!
NAKAKALOKA ANG MAG-ASAWANG ITO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HE-HE-HE ANG LAKI-LAKING DAMULAG NG KUMAG NA ITO PERO KAYONG-KAYA KONG KONTROLIN!
TATUMM'02

Which prom date are you?

By Kristine Ching
2bU! Correspondent

> Are you 'fantasy,' 'popular,' 'wall climber,' 'nerd' or John Doe (read: faceless and insignificant)? Here's the lowdown

IT'S that time of the school year when girls flock to the formals section of the malls and flip through international and local magazines featuring prom necessities. Students worry about who they'll be asking to the prom along with their trigonometry tests. We've heard and read a lot of prom anecdotes, positive and negative alike. Ever wonder which prom date you are? Well, save yourself the embarrassment of asking your date for an evaluation. This isn't academics, for goodness sake. And delete that how-was-I-as-a-date evaluation, *pronto*!

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Cult of Nirvana. They're the "bad boys/girls" of the batch who refuse to follow the dress code, and insist that they match whatever they wear with Doc Martens. They stick to their own kind, and are known to trash stuff at the prom. The guys are usually found dead drunk lying and being stepped on by people who are eager to leave the place.

Followers of Tupac. They're dressed like the average people, but something about the way they talk and their actions scream "gangster." Their prom attire is usually loose and baggy, especially the guys. They'd request R&B songs from the DJ, and usually get nasty stares form the Cult of Nirvana.

Wall climbers. Social climbers, to be exact. They're basically average students who think they're cool. They wear what the beautiful ones are wearing (but only cheap versions). One word, two letters actually, can describe these kind of prom dates: T.H. Unlike the losers, wall climbers talk about their affairs with once-cool-and-popular actors, like the losers, to make them appear cool (as the beautiful ones). They also go to their *suking* clubs after the prom—once-cool clubs like the one in "the square," and probably stay in a one- or two-star hotel—or motels if they're on a tight budget.

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E-mail the author at Xlady_IvoryX@yahoo.co.uk

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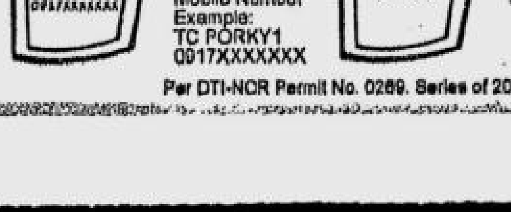

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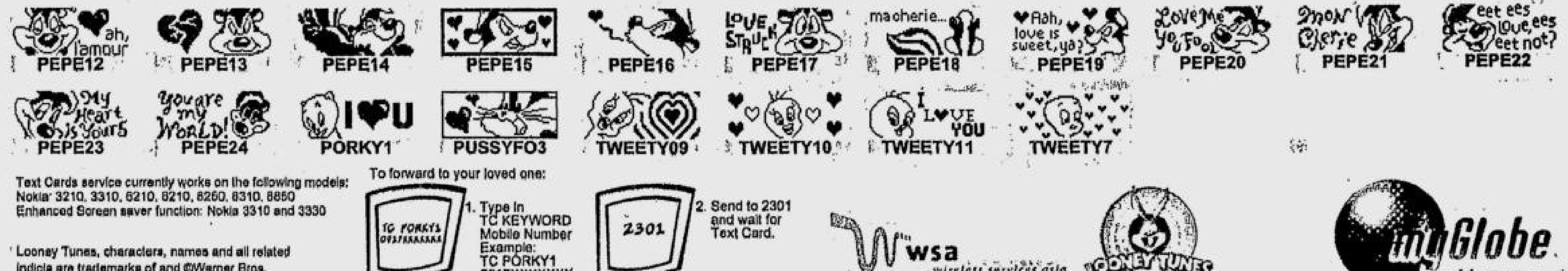

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Celebrity prom memories

Don't worry. Everyone has had his share of embarrassing prom experiences, even celebrities

ANGEL Aquino

Compiled By Tim Yap

MY date was the prom queen, but nobody believed me because I was two years younger than everyone and naturally was one of the shortest—even shorter than my date. It also didn't help that when she was crowned, her cousin had to be the one to escort her onstage because I was in the washroom fixing my tie. It was all good, though. A few weeks later, she became my very first girlfriend.—**Rico Blanco, vocalist, Rivermaya**

I was in third year. My new class ring fell on the dance floor. I spent the night in the dark on my knees looking for it. I found the ring, but lost my date!—**Atom Henares, NU 107**

AUDREY Tan

I remember I went to two proms on the same night. The first prom I went to was my senior prom and I went stag. The second prom was with a girl from Woodrose who asked me to her prom. When I got to the first prom, dinner hadn't been served yet. When I got to the second one, they were finished with dinner!—**Derek Ramsey, 25, MTV VJ**

Shopping for a dress with my mom was the best. I always tend to have more fun with the preparations than the actual event. My black-and-white dress was strapless with a train and white gloves.—**Anna Shier, 22, MTV VJ**

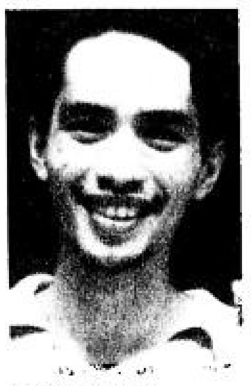
I hated my prom! It was so boring.—**Wolf Gemora, drummer, Wolfgang**

Two flat tires on Edsa. Had to stay there till 4 a.m. Bad trip.—**Mong Alcaraz, guitarist, Chico Science**

TJ Manotoc

My mom was really, really strict with me and she didn't like the boy whom I went with, so she made my best friend come with us to the restaurant and the prom to act as a chaperone. I was so embarrassed but I laugh about it now.—**Amanda Griffin, model and entrepreneur**

I didn't attend any proms. Boring *'no*?—**Angel Aquino, model and "F" host**


RICO Blanco

Best was my last prom where my boyfriend surprised me after the ball with about a hundred balloons. Each balloon had an "I love you" on it. And he knew how I always made wishes on stars. So we made a wish together and let them go so that, according to him, the wish would really reach the stars. Cheesy *ba*?—**Audrey Tan, model**

Didn't go to my prom. Had chicken pox.—**Angel Jacob, host, "Breakfast"**

My prom was a little boring since I went to a Christian school—one of the strict ones. Dancing was even forbidden.—**Andrea del Rosario, TV actress**

KC Concepcion

The worst: I was crowned Mr. Valentine. *Baduy*! The best: I got to kiss Miss Valentine who was my crush.—**Diether Ocampo, actor**

I was on a blind date and my friend promised me a cool date. I was so excited to meet her before the prom, but a get-together was not arranged. We met on the night itself. She was a bit on the heavy side and my friend thought that ruined my night. But she turned out to be cool and a great date since she was really entertaining.—**Iliac Diaz, model and entrepreneur**

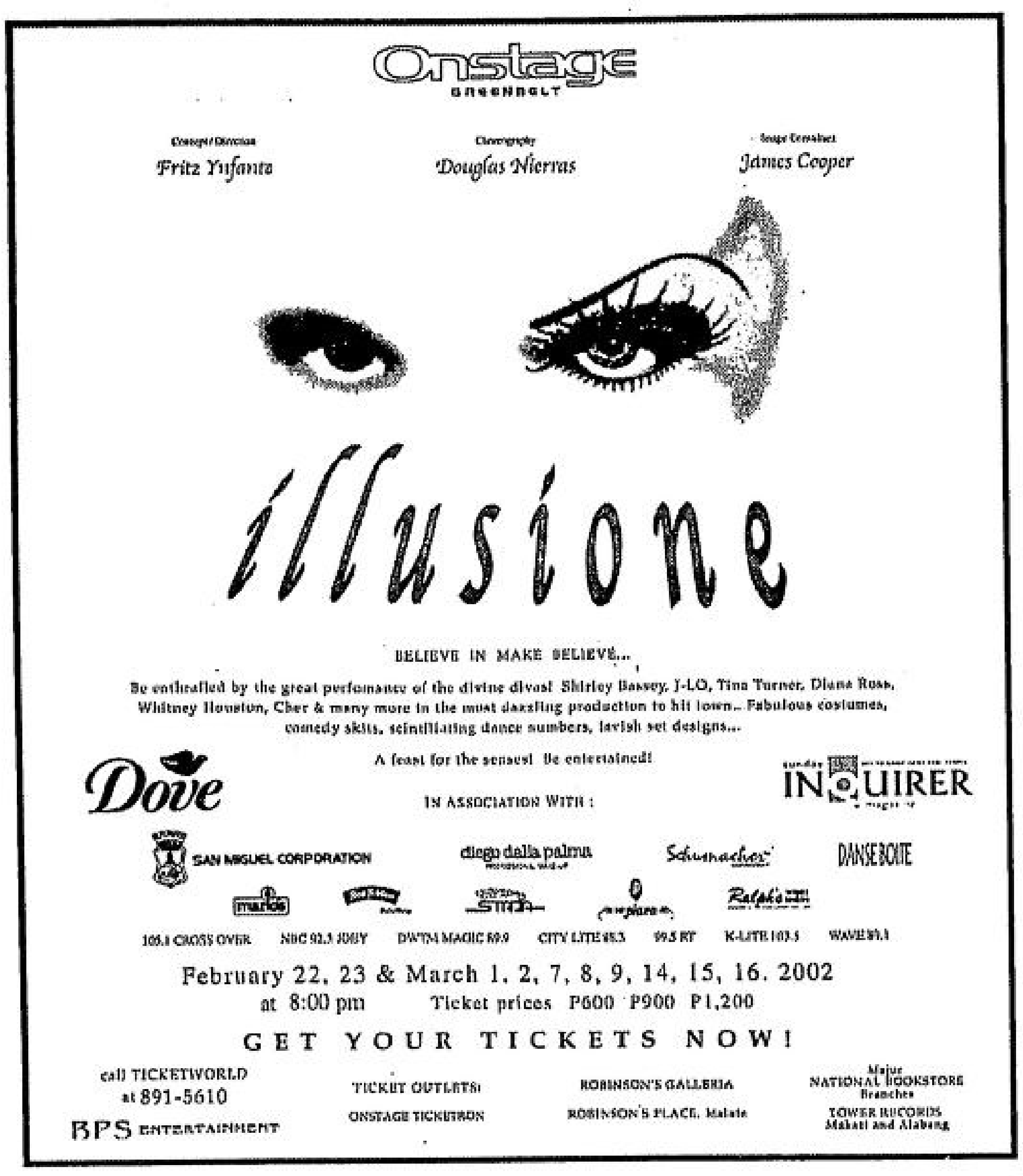
Prom night '98 for Ateneo High had its best and worst memories. Worst because I misplaced my favorite suit and ended up using my cousin's, and best because my girlfriend Antoinette Taus and I were crowned prom king and queen.—**Dingdong Dantes, actor**

You're asking the wrong person. This year my council is organizing our prom so it's going to be a lot of work. But you can ask me again next year.—**KC Concepcion, model**

My date kept leaving the table with her friend to go to the bathroom. *Mga* 10 times the whole night. I thought something was wrong with me. *'Yun pala*, her friend was so irritated with her date, my classmate. But the girl-bathroom thing is such a prom thing.—**TJ Manotoc, editor in chief, FWD**

I wasn't allowed to my prom because my dress was too short. In Assumption, they actually measure the length of dress. That was a memorable night.—**Claudine Trillo, model and TV host**

This gorgeous-looking girl named Anna asked me to go with her. The after-party was at a farmhouse. We all got wasted. Oh yeah, I did a strip dance a bit like on "The Full Monty."—**Luke Mucklin, model**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Choreography Douglas Nierras
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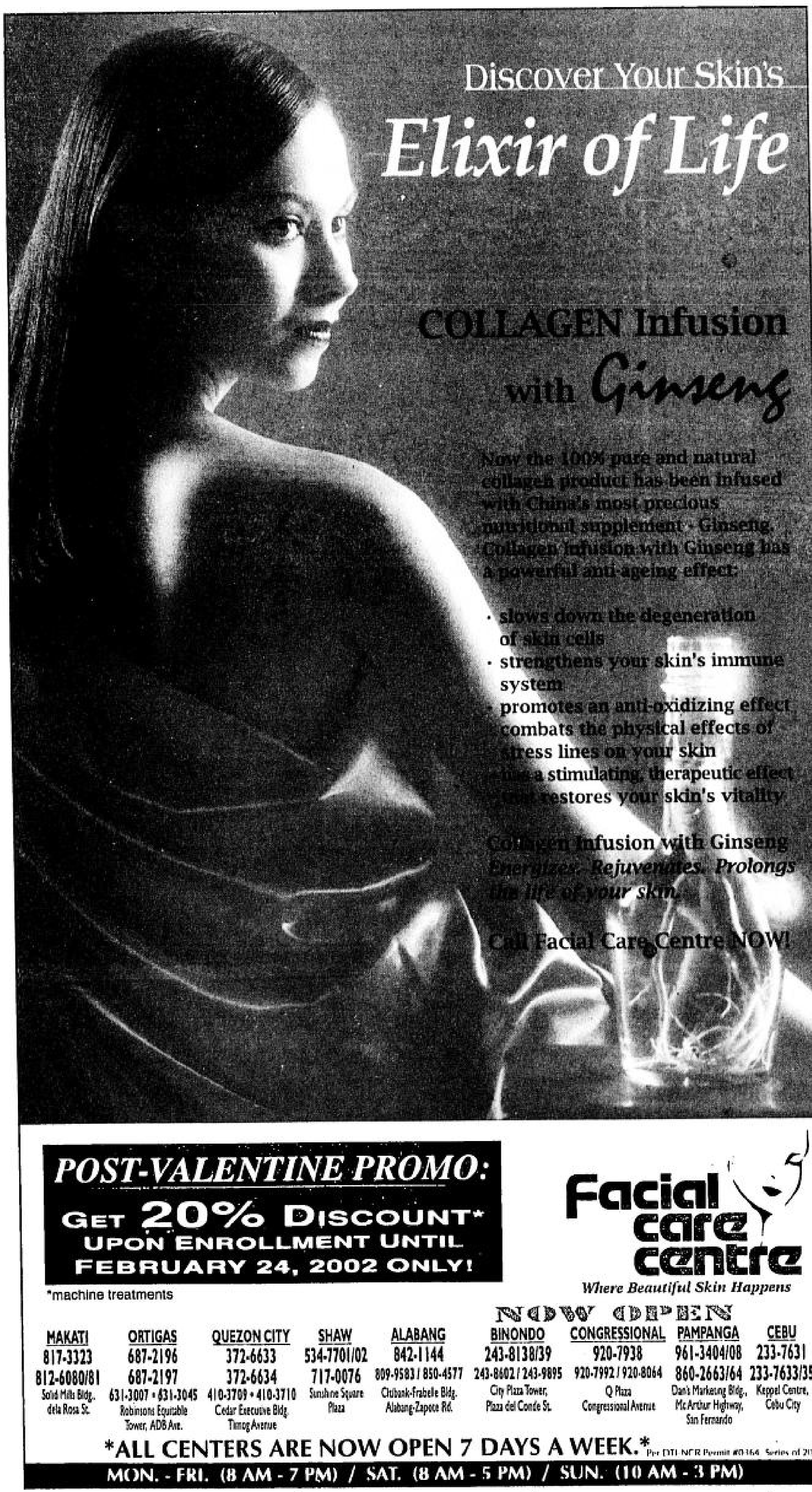
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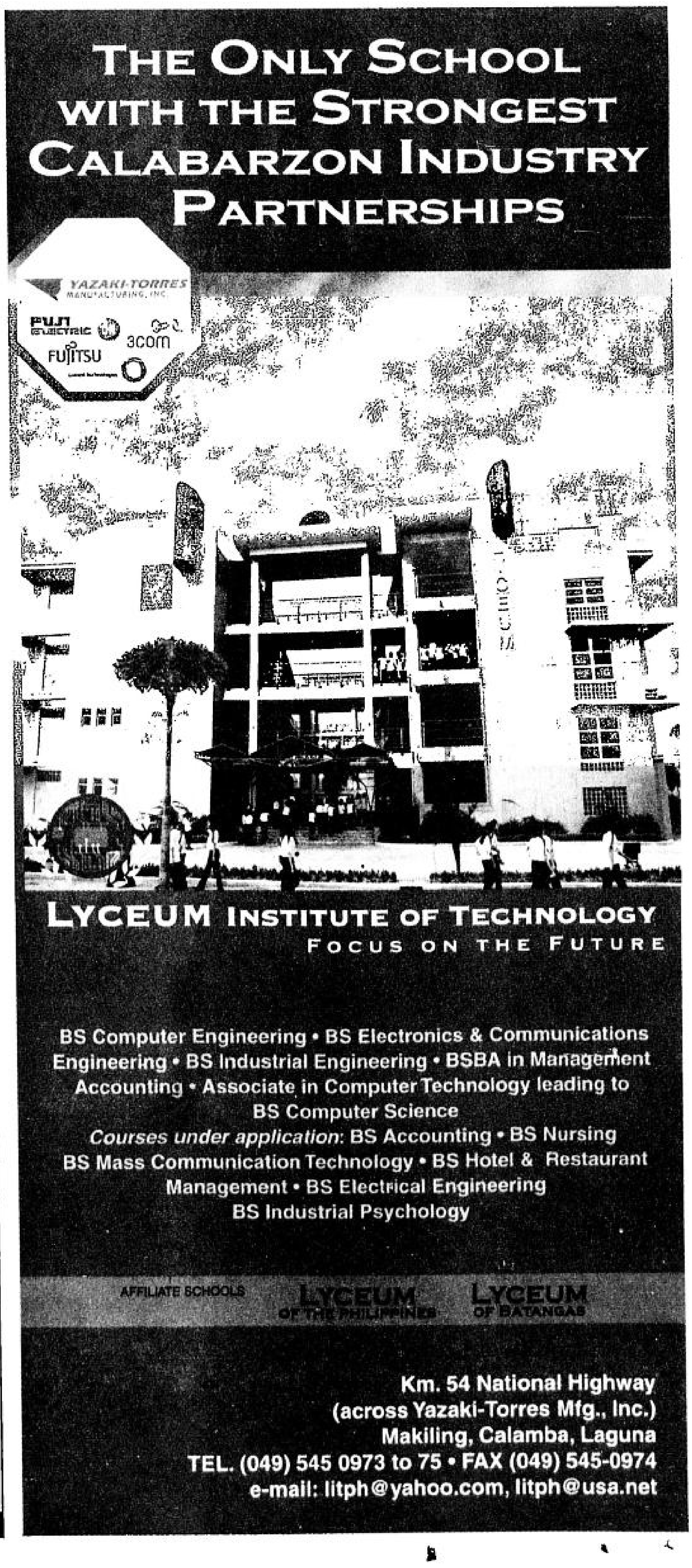
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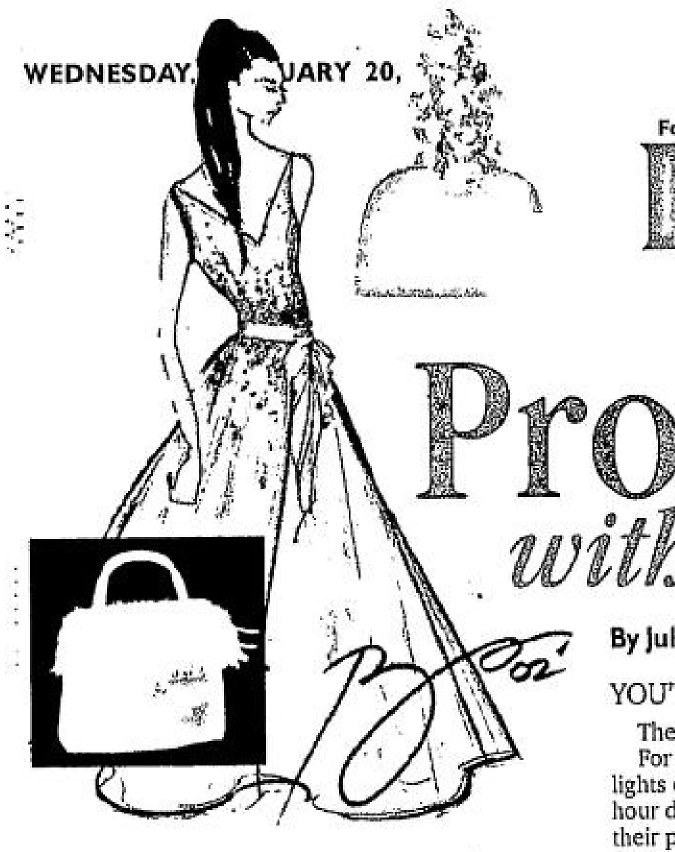
Prom 2002
with Rajo and Ishq



'GIRLIE-GIRL'
Inspiration comes from an era of innocence—the 1950s—but modernized by modern techno fabrics. The waistline is the main focus while the details are all about flounce and flirting.
Colors: Bubble-gum pink, aqua, melon orange, lemon yellow
Fabrics: Taffeta, organza, tulle, satins

Ishq recommends either the Serin (green bag with peach/orange floral handle) or the Jill (lavender bag with feathers)

By Jules Alcantara

YOU'VE dreamed about this all your life.

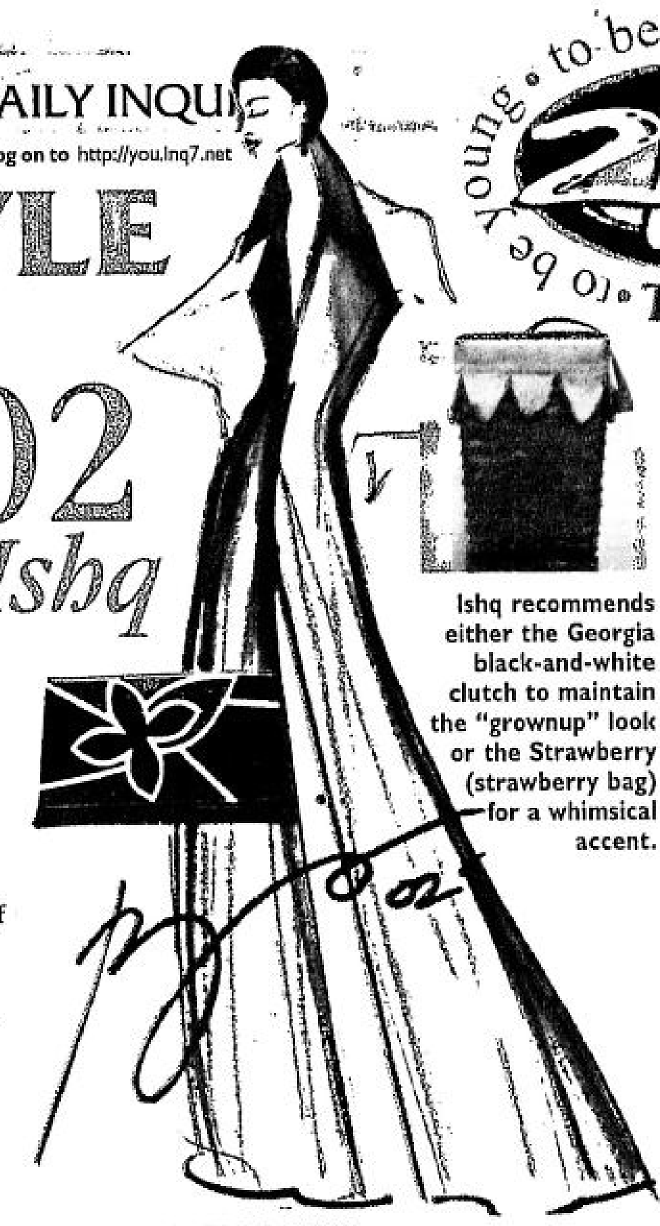
The prom night.

For some—or most—girls, this is one of the highlights of high school. They have spent many a class hour daydreaming about the perfect guy who will be their prom date. And truth to tell, you have been visualizing yourself wearing a gorgeous, most flattering gown, flaunting yourself (and your date) in front of all and sundry.

And as you know, it doesn't just end with the gown—there are also other things that should be considered in order to look drool-worthy from head to toe. There are the shoes, makeup and, of course, the evening bag.

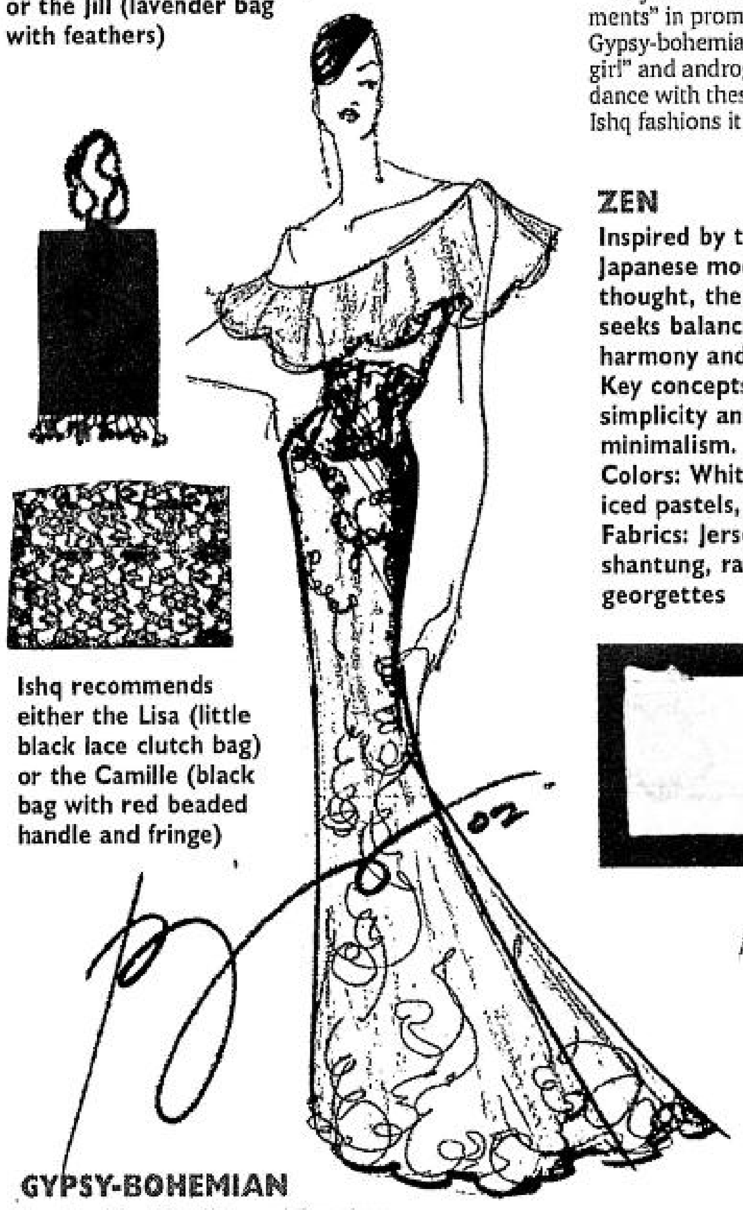
Read on and find inspiration from the sketches of one of Manila's most in-demand designers, Rajo Laurel, as he shows us his vision of Prom 2002. Plus take a good look at how Ishq, one of Manila's popular and remarkable bag designers, adds delight to the prom night with its fabulous designs.

Rajo sees four "major movements" in prom fashion this year: Gypsy-bohemian, Zen, "girlie-girl" and androgyne. In accordance with these movements, Ishq fashions it bags.



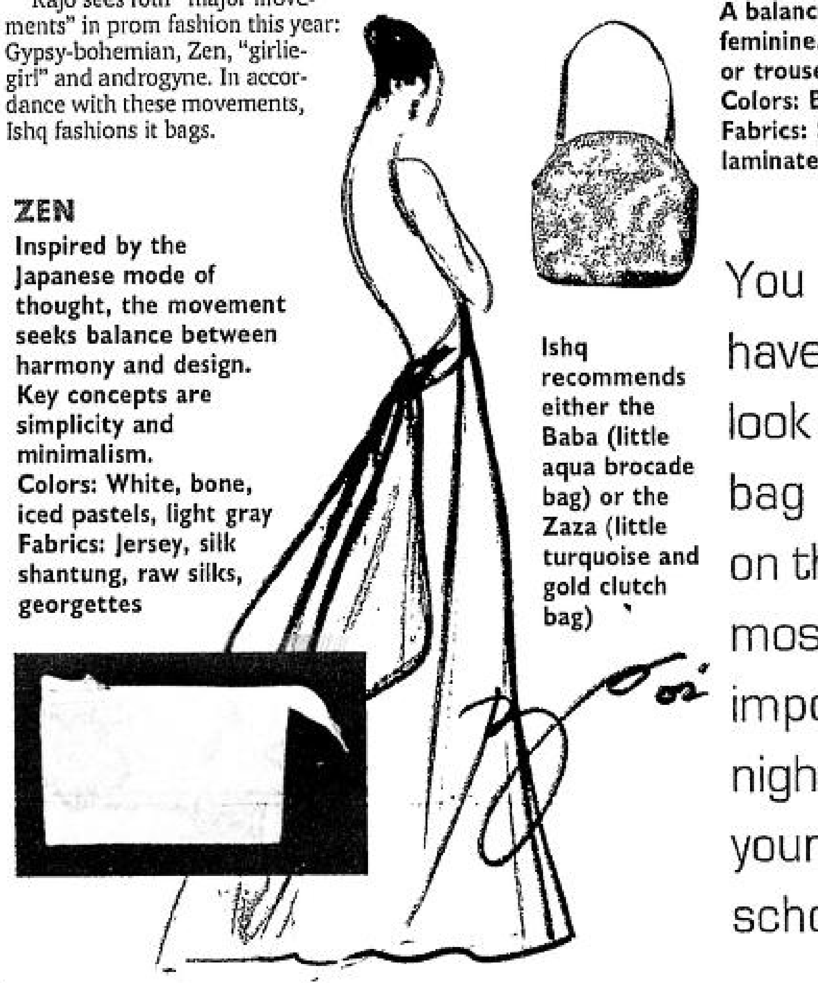
Ishq recommends either the Georgia black-and-white clutch to maintain the "grownup" look or the Strawberry (strawberry bag) for a whimsical accent.

ANDROGYNE
A balance between the masculine and the feminine. Main design element is the pants or trousers.
Colors: Black, white, gray, navy, red
Fabrics: Silk twill, crepe de chine, laminated satins



Ishq recommends either the Lisa (little black lace clutch bag) or the Camille (black bag with red beaded handle and fringe)

GYPSY-BOHEMIAN
Inspired by frivolity and freedom.
Colors: Deep rust, terra cotta, warm red, lush vivid magenta
Fabrics: Chiffon, lace, organza



ZEN
Inspired by the Japanese mode of thought, the movement seeks balance between harmony and design. Key concepts are simplicity and minimalism.
Colors: White, bone, iced pastels, light gray
Fabrics: Jersey, silk shantung, raw silks, georgettes

Ishq recommends either the Baba (little aqua brocade bag) or the Zaza (little turquoise and gold clutch bag)

You don't have to look like a bag lady on the most important night of your high school life

Makeup tips and tricks from the experts

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent

YOUR mission is to make sure you are not just a sight to behold on prom night, but that you take everyone's breath away.

Here are some tips from two of Manila's experts in the world of maquillage, which may not make you prom queen but at least will not turn you into the prom clown/mascot.

Marlon Rivera
PROPAGANDA

- Do a test run. Get all your girlfriends together, go through magazines and try out different makeup styles a few weeks before prom night. The point is not to come up with the perfect makeup but to get used to the makeover so you don't feel self-conscious on prom night.
- Keep it light. This is not the last time you will put on makeup so don't put too much on your face in one evening. If you want to call attention to your eyes, gloss will suffice for your lips. If you have been dreaming of bright, dramatic lips, keep the eyes simple.
- Shop around for makeup service. Ask your *ate* or older friends. Check out magazines and find out who did whose makeup.
- Prepare, prepare, prepare. On prom day, the only thing you need to do is take a shower, go to the salon, go home, put on your prom dress, then wait for your cute *sundo*. Being harassed will definitely show through even the best makeup job.

Must do: Groomed brows, matte face, light blush, mascara and gloss.

Enjoy and it will show!

Henri Calayag
H SALON

Tips for skin types

For fair skin—Pastel pink eye shadow and lip shade are perfect. On the cheeks, bluish pinks such as cotton candy and berry are best for achieving a natural look. Do not use brown-based pink blushes that can make your skin look dirty.

For olive skin—Any pink with a warm yellowish base will do. Vintage- or classic-looking dusty roses for those who with a tan complexion. Sandy and tawny shades of pink are also incredibly flattering.

For dark skin—Pastel makes skin ash- or dead-looking, so choose brighter shades of pink. Women with naturally dark lips should avoid light shades of lipstick that can make them look washed out. Pinkish plums and berries work well all over the face. If they seem a bit too strong, use something with shimmer or pearl texture. It comes out as sheer but still adds color.

Makeup application tips

- Apply concealer first, concentrating on the most recessed corner of your inner eye. Using the pad of your index finger, gently press the concealer to blend.
- Apply foundation to make skin flawless. Blend carefully.
- Set concealer and foundation with loose powder, using a velour puff.
- Define brow with eye shadow, or old brown or transparent mascara.
- Use shadow brush to dust highlighter all over the lid.
- Put medium-tone eye shadow from the lash line to the area just above the crease.
- Line the eye using the darkest shadow.
- Apply one to two coats of black or brown mascara.
- Dust brush on the apple of your cheeks and blend well. Use neutral color first then apply a brighter pop of color on top.
- Apply lipstick.
- Define your mouth with a lipliner pencil.

VANDOL RASH-PROOFING TIPS

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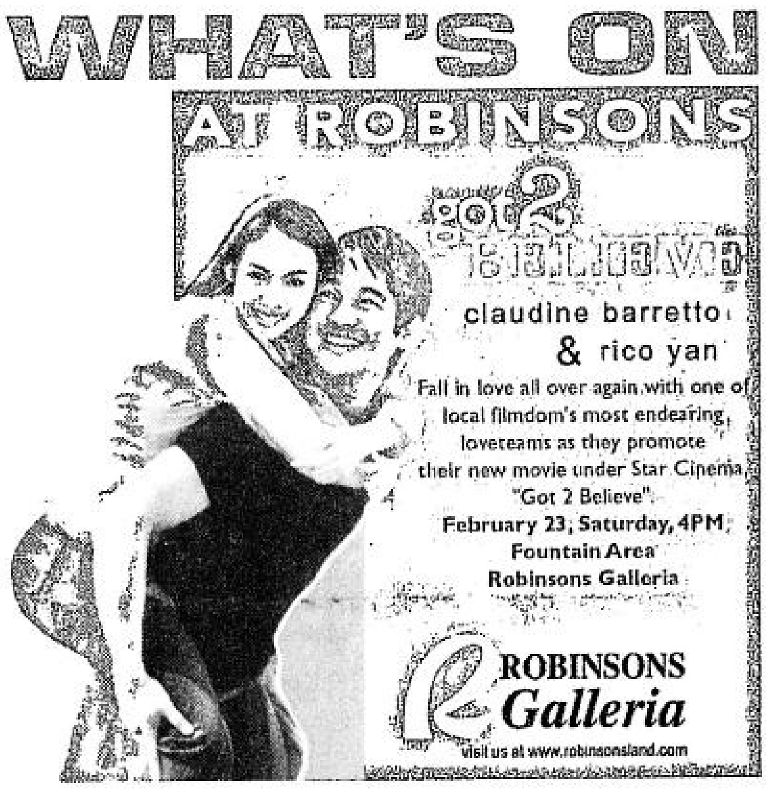

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
got 2 BELIEVE
claudine barretto
& rico yan
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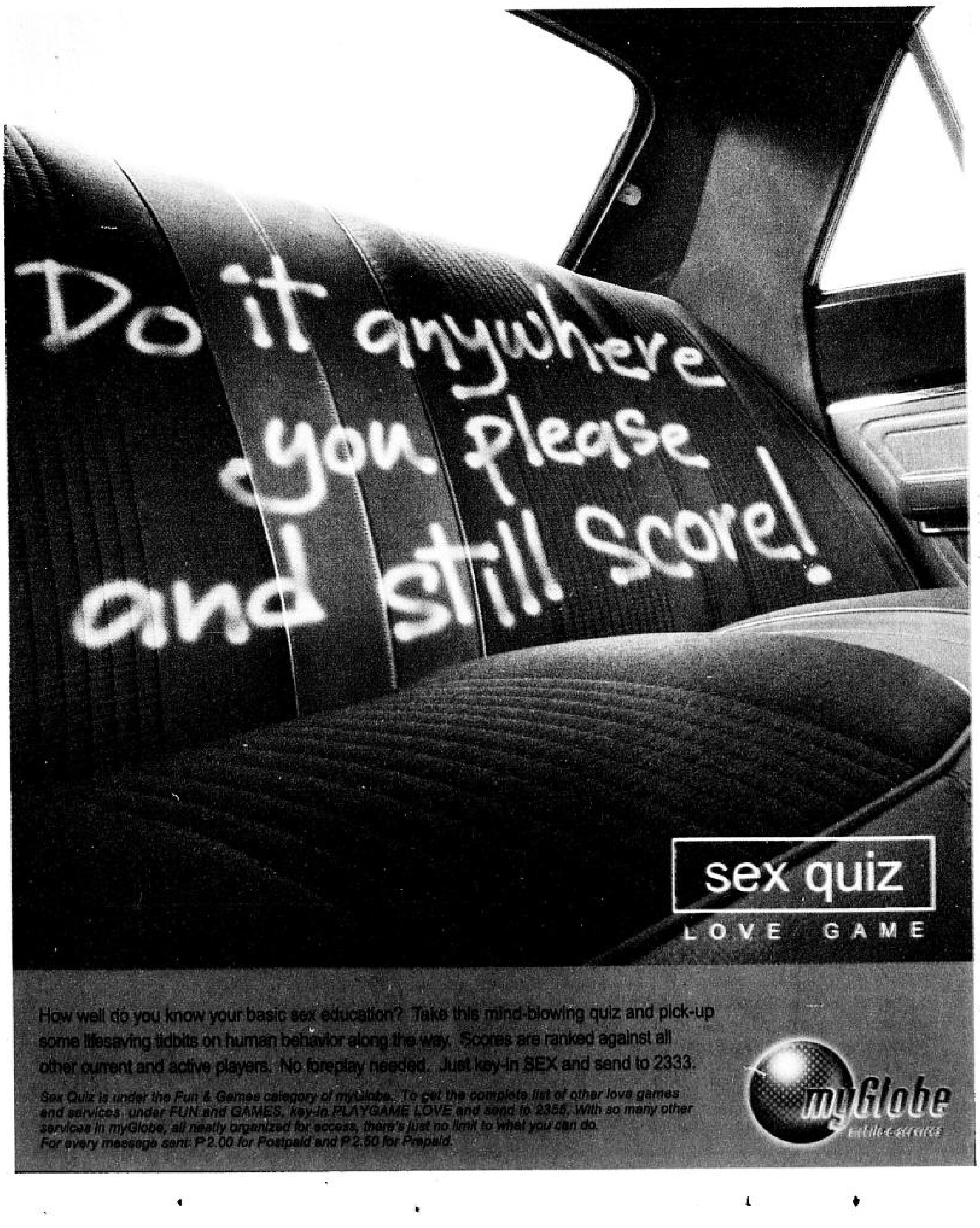

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myGlobe

IT'S NOT OVER TILL THE ROOSTER CROWS

By Mariless V. Villamar
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

ON PROM night, the fun doesn't have to end after the last dance. In fact, this may signal when the real action begins. The idea is to make the night really special for all concerned whether you are with a date or with your friends. It's best to plan ahead and make arrangements as early as possible.

The first thing you have to be clear on is the curfew. Believe it or not, there are still some parents who will insist on the Cinderella curfew. What you do after the prom holds as much promise as the prom itself. Here are some novel post-prom gimmicks.

- Declare a songfest at the KTV. After all that dancing, don't you just want to kick back and belt out the cool songs that never got a chance to be played at your prom? (If you have the nerve, that is.) But be warned, fighting over the microphone is a common occurrence.
- Miniature golf. Try playing golf wearing a chiffon strapless gown and 2-inch high stilettos and you'll know what a challenge is. All that expendable energy needs an outlet so you might as well give this a shot since bowling is out of the question. If you have a date along, you can even ask him/her to show you how to putt right.
- Hang out at a late-night café. A nice, relaxed conversation is impossible when the music is so loud we can hardly hear ourselves talk. Get to know your date better by getting a nightcap where you can be comfortable and, of course, where you don't have to shout to hear each other. If you're just hanging with your friends, there is plenty of time to talk about all that transpired at the prom; like who went with who or who got caught doing stuff.
- Post-prom party. What were they thinking? That was your first thought when you looked around the gym or wherever your prom was held. The music was wrong, the decorations were reminiscent of a prom scene in a teen horror movie and the food was just terrible. Organize an after-prom party. This is your chance to make things right—no annoying teachers and lots of time to schmooze with the opposite sex.
- Movie marathon. Get your dateless friends together and swoon over your favorite romance movies. Have your helping of Brad Pitt ("Legends of the Fall"), Hugh Jackman ("Kate and Leopold") and Tom Cruise ("Risky Business"). No boy-bashing sessions, please, that is so overrated and will do *nada* for your self-esteem.

It's not really what you do but how you do things that will guarantee you a good time. Besides, when you're in good company, there can never be a dull moment. Enjoy!

E-mail the author at mvvillamar@philwebinc.com

Fabulous doesn't mean expensive

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent

LET'S admit it.

We all want to look fabulous come prom night. Next to the dress you will be wearing when you walk down the aisle and what you will be clad in when you blow the most anticipated 18 candles, the most important gown is the one you will wear on prom night.

There's a slight glitch, though. Times are hard and as much as mommy wants you to look like a prom queen, you have to work on a tight budget. This means you have to be more "creative" in order to achieve the perfect prom gown. You can actually design your own prom gown. Here are some tips.

Know your body. Figure out what type of gown or cut suits the shape of your body.

Raid your closet. Check out all your favorites—these are the clothes that fit and suit you well. You can pattern the design of your prom gown after the clothes you feel have shown you in the best light in the past.

Check out your old gowns. You might be able to just alter an old ball skirt (by putting beads, etc.) or a fancy top.

Read fashion and bridal magazines. Yup, bridal magazines are a rich source of inspiration for prom gown designs.

Find out the details of your prom. If the venue will be an open-air place, you may need a shawl or if the weather is too hot, you may need to wear something that has no sleeves. Some schools (especially exclusive schools) are very strict about attires so you also have to consider that.

Know exactly how much your budget is. You don't want to end up fighting with your mom because what you want is way too expensive for her budget.

Look for a reliable *modista* or *costurera*. And call him/her ASAP.

The following are the 411 on some of Manila's more reliable *modista*:

Mila Santiago

29 P. Burgos St., Pasig City
69 JP Rizal, Project 4, QC
Tel. 641-0251

Cost:
P3,500-5,000
- Includes everything—from cloth to beadwork and bag. They also do shoes but that will incur separate cost.

P2,000-3,000
- Labor fee only

Shortest lead time: Three weeks to a month.

Quick tip:
"For close friends, *siyempre nakakaya ko ng* two weeks, but usually *talaga* it takes one month—especially during this time *marami talagang nagpapagawa.*"

Yoli Nubla-Celdran

482Lt. Artiaga St., San Juan
Tel. 725-2514

Cost:
P 2,500 and up
- Includes cloth and beadwork (if any).

P2,000
- Includes cloth but without beadwork

Shortest lead time: During this season, two to three weeks.

Quick tip:
"I really make it a point to get to know the lifestyle of my client. If I know that the girl goes out a lot, then I make her something she can use again. For example, I would make her a skirt and two tops. I really want to maximize the money that is being spent. I call it investment dressing."

Shirley Batotoy-Estorque

2578 Manggahan St., Guadalupe Nuevo,
Makati City
Tel. 750-7270

Cost:
P 2,500-3,500
- Includes everything—from cloth to beadwork (if any)

P2,000
- Labor fee only

Shortest lead time: Three days.

Quick tip:
"Kung nagmamadali talaga, mahahanapan natin ng paraan."

Chantal Ysmael

6239 Apt. C. Manalac St., Poblacion,
Makati City
Tel. 899-2435

Cost:
P3,500-5,400
- Includes everything—from cloth to beadwork and, when budget allows, even a beaded pouch bag.

P2,500
- Covers beadwork, but you have to provide the cloth.

P2,000
- Labor fee only

Shortest lead time: One-and-a-half weeks.

Quick pre-prom tip:
"I really try to pattern [the gown] after the budget of the mom. And if the daughter wants something, I try to make a compromise so they both get what they want. I also want to make sure their gowns will be comfortable since some schools hold their proms in school; I have to take note of the climate, heat and all that. Some schools are strict about neckline and spaghetti strap so I take note of that."

This prom season, your best pal is your good ol' neighborhood modista

Enan Almando

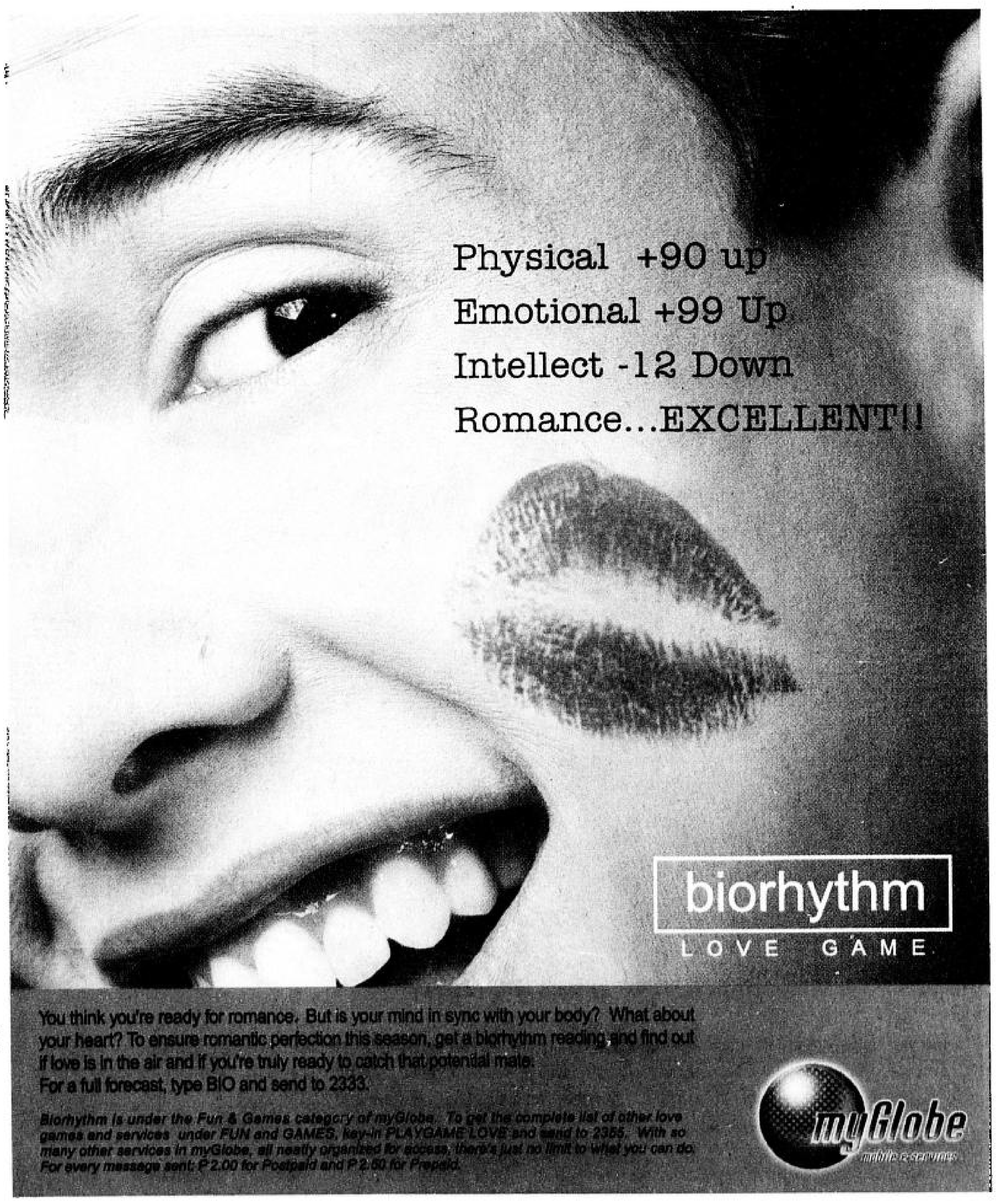
5418 Curie St., Barangay Palanan,
Makati City
Tel. 831-2238

Cost:
P4,000
- Includes everything—cloth, beadwork, shawl and pouch.

P2,000
- Labor fee

Shortest lead time: three weeks

Quick tip:
"I suggest they don't follow the *usong* color. They should think of something different, especially if they want to stand out. I usually suggest an unusual color to my clients."



You think you're ready for romance. But is your mind in sync with your body? What about your heart? To ensure romantic perfection this season, get a biorhythm reading and find out if love is in the air and if you're truly ready to catch that potential mate.
For a full forecast, type BIO and send to 2333.

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He's persistent in courting a girl who has a boyfriend

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

It's me again, Alex, the jobless chap who fell in love with a girl who has a boyfriend. If you'll ask how I'm doing, I'm not that fine. And regarding the status of my courtship of Ms AJCM, I stopped courting her for a while, but lately I have heard "unconfirmed" reports from my cousin that she just split up with her boyfriend last December.

I don't know if that's true but I've started courting her again. I buy her stuff such as toys and roses. And she's responding by saying "I'm very sweet." It all sounds flattering and I hope she's not just flirting. Guys, I can't help it. I still have feelings for her. Just like the song "On the line this time, just to be with you."

What shall I do? Please help me. Thanks.

ALEX

I admire your persistence. You've probably heard people telling you to forget this girl because she supposedly has a boyfriend already, but you never gave up on trying to know the truth. And even if things are still confusing for you, as they are to me (does she have a boyfriend or not?), you still rely on your gut feelings and believe this girl is good for you. Not too many people are like that.

My advice is, if you honestly want to be with her, then don't listen to anybody else who tells you otherwise—not even a couple of pseudo-intellectuals who like telling other people what to do. If I may also quote a line from that Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross song, sometimes, it's worth it "to stop, look and listen to your heart and what it's saying." Just be sure that whatever the outcome of this romantic adventure, you will be ready, or at least willing, to face the consequences.

I sincerely wish you luck.

SEP

You are asking for more than just advice, my friend. At first I thought you had taste, quoting Mr. Big's "To be with You," but I dialed a friend on my ISP and uncovered your contemporary cheesy-ness. So, without sounding condescending, you should let your heartthrob boy band show you the way. We all need role models, don't we? We can't condemn you for your taste in music, but we can condemn you for being desperately friendless and wishy-washy, to boot.

This isn't the first time you've written us, as everyone now knows, and I'm not sure what to feel about you not having anyone else to consult. This is not quite the Bat-Hotline connected to your office, Commissioner, but I guess we should feel something close to appreciation that you are a consistent reader, and a bit troubled that you're a consistent problematic.

As Valentine has passed, my second piece of advice would be that if you were laying "it" on the line, then a dozen roses would be more convincing. Not quite original, but you've got to work harder to win her away from her ex. You should also have confirmed the "unconfirmed reports" by now. Getting it straight from the mare's mouth would not have only been laying "it" on the line, but it would have been letting "them" hang way out, if you know what I mean.

When girls respond to gifts by saying "You're so very/really sweet," what usually follows is either the thoughts or words of the following nature: "You're really sweet, but I'm allergic to your kind"; "You're very sweet and I don't want to break your heart, but give Sep and Caloy a break!"; or "You're so sweet. Take me now. You animal. You animal."

Sweep her off her feet, Romeo!

CARLOS

E-mail at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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Prom directory

Designers

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Tel. 814-5917, 816-4077 or (0917) 529-3933

Inno Sotto
Unit 131 3/South Syquia,
2021 M. H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila
Tel. 521-8195 or 523-7855

Rajo Laurel
6060 Palma St., Makati City
Tel. 895-6426
Fax 896-7046

Michele Sison
Tel. 633-0756/0744
Fax 633-0752

Eddie Baddeo
Tel. 371-9384 or (0917) 528-2758

Len Nepomuceno-Guiao
158 Kaimito St. Valle Verde Townhouses, Pasig City
Tel. 631-5922

Patrice Ramos-Diaz
3/F PRD Enterprise
326 Henry Javier St., Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. 671-2293/5359

Randy Ortiz
15 K-6 Kamias Road, QC
Tel. 927-6485 or (0919) 320-3374
Fax 922-8375

Pepito Albert
16 Candelaria St., San Miguel Village, Makati City
Tel. 852-6481 or (0917) 386-5062

Beauty experts

Propaganda
Unit 303, 3/L Greenbelt Mall, Makati City
Tel. 893-4098
Telefax 840-4773

Basement Salon
2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City
Tel. 898-2033

Emphasis
Rockwell Information Center, Estrella corner Amapola Streets, Rockwell, Makati City

Franck Provost
122 Jupiter St., Bel Air Village, Makati City
Tel. 8953401 to -03

Paradigm
3/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel. 840-3885/3876

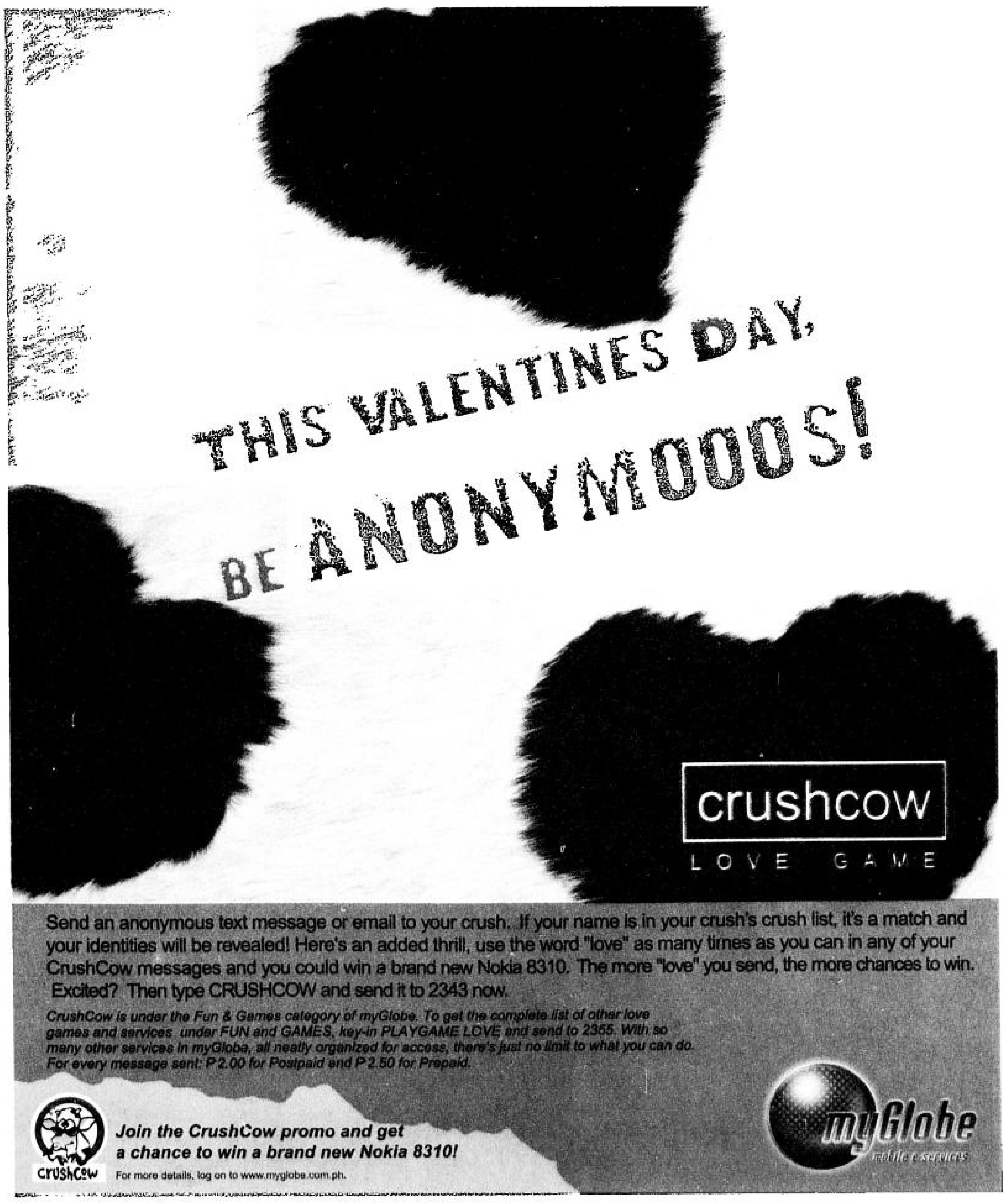
Hairbytes Salon
First Midland Building, Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 893-3497/3843

Lala Flores
Tel. (0917) 475-5191

Kei Pagtakhan
Tel. 561-5432 or (0919) 318-6651

Patrick Rosas
Tel. 833-8546 or (0918) 910-3282

H Salon
3/F Rustan's Makati
Tel. 817-6149/6150



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How to make the night memorable

By Zee Castro
2bU! Correspondent

THINGS don't always run as smoothly as you expect them to. From the minute I set foot in high school, I dreamed about how magnificent prom night would be. My friends and I would draw gowns on our notebooks and talk about our plans for high school's biggest night. However, what happened during the event itself was something we all wanted to erase from our memories. But even though my top kept threatening to fall, my big bag wasn't formal, and I forgot to retouch my makeup, the evening was a blast. I had a great time bonding with friends and enjoying what remained of high school for me.

What are the usual horror stories about prom night? If you have not been through the prom experience yet, pay close attention so you will avoid the mistakes others have made.

ON DATES

I regret agreeing to a blind date. He didn't buy me a corsage and arrived two hours late. Good thing my friends kept me company.—**Lara Croft, 19**

My date was like a post. He barely talked and refused to dance. I wish I went solo so I could've danced with other people.—**Baba, 18, Miriam**

I asked my ex to my prom, hoping that sparks would fly again. But I had the worst time because he felt sleepy and was really quiet all night.—**Cesca, 18, UP**

I had a really good-looking date and everyone envied me. But I found out that he was a total jerk, ungentlemanly and dumb. Well, you can't have everything.—**Flex, 18, Miriam**

I should've been more assertive in asking someone I like to the prom. She ended up going with another guy and I was totally surprised.—**Edrie, 17, ISM**

I should've stuck with my original prom date—someone I already knew. I should've been less stupid.—**Angela, 19, Ateneo**

I regret going stag. I should have looked for a date.—**June, 19, UP**

ON MAKEUP

I shouldn't have worn so much makeup.—**Odessa, 17, Holy Spirit**

I shouldn't have let my buds talk me into getting my makeup done at this expensive salon. The makeup was so not my age and was so dark. I hated it!—**Cza, 19, PISF**

I should have gone to a professional salon to have my hair and makeup done.—**Lei, 21, UST**

ON PROM FASHION

I wish I knew that even if black made you look slim, it's too blah for prom.—**Lila, 19, UP**

I regret not investing on a good suit. It would have come in handy with the debuts, weddings and other formal events I'd eventually attend.—**John, 20**

I should have worn the prom dress of my dreams—a beaded, iridescent ball gown—rather than the "safe" long dress that I wore.—**Tricia, 20, DLSU**

I should've had my prom dress done by a different *modista*. I wanted the gown Julia Roberts wore in "My Best Friend's Wedding," but the *modista* did a very bad imitation of it. When I tried it on, the hem wasn't quite straight. But instead of redoing the gown, she sewed a wad of cloth to the uneven part. I had to wear the horrible creation the whole night!—**Acee, 19, UST**

I shouldn't have worn high heels! I wasn't able to dance with my date because my feet hurt.—**Carla, 18, UE**

I had my empire-cut dress altered because it was too long, falling a bit below the knee. I had it shortened at the last minute. Unfortunately, the *modista* overdid it. It ended up way too short. When it was time to dance in the cotillion, I couldn't bend over much because I was afraid of exposing myself.—**Des, 19, UP**

Dapat I had a final fitting of my gown. I thought everything was okay *na*. But on prom night, the strap kept falling. I had to use a pin to keep it in place but it was really obvious.—**Mitch, 19, DLSU-CSB**

MORE REGRETS

I should have bought my date a corsage. I didn't bother buying one because I thought it was a stupid tradition. When prom night came, I was the only guy in the class who didn't have a corsage for his date. She looked beautiful. I should have bought her flowers. I should have treated her better.—**Miguel, 21, UP**

I was so upset because I wasn't able to dance with my crush. I fantasized about that night for months but, a few days before the prom, my crush was suspended! He wasn't allowed to attend the prom. I was so frustrated!—**Isa, 20**

I regret not going to the prom with someone I liked.—**Scuze, 20, UP**

I had my prom dress made and it was terrible. It didn't come out the way I expected it to. My mom and the dressmaker almost redesigned the whole thing! My hair and makeup were done at a top salon. The makeup artist did what she wanted to do and not what I wanted. I looked like a geisha! I had a really hot date who probably thought I looked like a freak. During the prom, I realized that I was wearing boxers under my dress. I ran down a hill in front of everyone in heels, and had a hot chocolate stain on my nose by the end of the evening, which my very kind date didn't comment on.—**Freakworks, 18**

I should have eaten a bit before going to the prom since I felt queasy the whole evening and we were the last to be served. I should have brought my own CDs for better music. I should have gone alone or had the guts to ask for a better date! (*Kapal!*)—**Tatam, 19**

My prom night was off to a bad start. I realized that my dress was ugly. I wanted to kill the person who did my hair—I looked like a *lola*! I messed up my makeup on the way to the hotel. And I had a huge fight with my boyfriend. I regret being such a worrywart. I should have stayed calm through the whole thing.—**Drea, 19**

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6 reasons to go date-less on prom night

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

> Some people may still be against the idea of going alone, but these days it is acceptable to go without a date

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WHEN I was in third year high school, I made the decision to go to our prom alone. It raised a few eyebrows, since practically everyone was scrambling to get a date. I was in an all-girl school so getting an escort was often a problem in traditionally co-ed functions. Some even had backup dates to make sure they were not alone on the big night.

I remember well-meaning classmates who were astounded: "*Ha?* Solo *ka?*" and tried vainly to get me to change my mind. But I did not like the idea of going with a complete stranger, so I ended up splitting the bill with my friend Ella, who was part of the prom committee and was busy as a bee the whole night and barely had time to sit at our table. We were the only people without dates and I, for one, did not find anything amiss.

During my senior year, I was having a stressful time in school. I did not feel like knocking myself out with ball details. But this time I wasn't alone—many of my friends also decided to go solo for the night. My friend Barbie and I ended up splitting not just the bill but also the tasks—I took care of the salon appointments and she planned our corsages down to the last petal. We saved time and money, and we had a lot of fun.

After going solo two times in a row, I found the experience quite liberating; I didn't have to feel awkward about being in a dress and being all made up. (I know that sometimes, friends even talked about it with their equally uncomfortable dates, especially when they ran out of things to say to each other.)

Although some people are against the idea of going alone, these days it is already acceptable to go without a date. Here are some reasons you should resist pressure from peers and go against the norm and be alone:

Reason #1: Price tag

Face it. Proms are expensive. The most important reason for me to go solo was simple: I wanted to save money. Why shell out an extra one or two grand for someone you've never met before? And let's not forget the little things you have to deal with during prom season. If you're a guy, you have to make sure the corsage matches the girl's dress, to pick her up on time (not too early and not too late), and to talk to her parents before you leave. It's easier if you're a girl; all you have to do is to get your escort a boutonniere. But then you also have to fuss about your dress and get the right hairdo, makeup and accessories. Bottom line is, the prom has both financial and psychological price tags, and you have to make sure you have them covered.

Reason # 2: Attack of the 50-ft woman

If you're like me, a bit tall for your age, and if most of the guys you know literally look up to you, then it's pretty obvious why going alone is a practical choice. Tall men are in short supply. Maybe that's a shallow reason, but honestly, you don't want to look back on your prom pictures and think "What have I done?" So much for romantic slow dances.

Reason # 3: Baby-sitting blues

When friends can't get you the perfect date, parents usually come to the "rescue." They arrange for you to go with the bratty cousin you were fighting with just last Christmas. Sometimes, even when well-meaning parents succeed in getting you a willing relative/family friend as a date, you end up spending the night baby-sitting the little runt and making sure she/he doesn't get into any trouble. You spend the evening wishing you could stuff your corsage in his mouth to shut him up.

Reason # 4: The missing prince/princess

A friend of mine told me she chose to go alone because the guy she really wanted for a date backed out. She did not want to be with anyone else. At least he told her weeks before the prom. Imagine if you got stood up on the evening on the prom itself or if you got the I'm-bailing-on-you phone call at the last minute. Guys can probably almost see a cartoon version of themselves holding wilted flowers—a metaphor for withered expectations.

Reasons # 5: The feminist

Through the years, women have successfully liberated themselves from most of the chains that have shackled them. This should include little things like having to have a date. After all, there's no law that says you should go with someone.

Anyway, people now usually dance in groups, so having an escort so you will have someone to dance with no longer applies.

Don't worry about the slow dances; most couples don't bother with them. Besides, the evening is almost over before the slow dances begin.

Reason # 6: Blind date horrors

The average prom lasts five hours. How long or short it feels will depend on how much fun you're having. Nothing is worse than having an indifferent date. Or you get a date who's a living statue. "How's the food?" you ask. "OK, I guess." You say, "Do you want to dance?" She/he answers, "I don't dance *eh*." You end up spending the evening tearing your napkin to shreds.

Going alone does not mean being lonely. Not having a significant other does not mean you cannot have fun with your friends. If there is no special someone in your life and if the prospect of being set up with a stranger does not appeal to you, then go solo. Have fun, save your cash and dance the night away.

E-mail the author at unicorn@csi.com.ph or cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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One evening of fun, not a lifetime commitment

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

ADMIT it—you have had some great prom fantasies at some point in your life. You may have had visions of yourself in a hot-off-the-fairy-tale-rack ball gown or in an ultra-debonair *amerikana*, stepping off a sleek limousine and entering a lavishly decorated ballroom with everyone green-eyed with envy... and a huge question mark by your side. As much as we would like to make our entrance arm-in-arm with Freddie Prinze Jr. or Jessica Alba, we have to settle for the next best thing. And no, I don't mean life-size cardboard cutouts.

BLOOPERS

For some of us, getting a prom date is a very important task. People have gone to great, even embarrassing, lengths to fulfill their romantic fantasies. Some succeeded but most fell kind of short of their ideal. Daphne, 19, winces as she recalls her prom date-hunting fiasco. "I was supposed to go with a friend, an ex-crush, but when my current crush said yes, (the first guy) was nice enough to give way. What I didn't expect was that my new crush was going to turn out to be a real jerk, begging off at the last minute. I ended up going with a guy I didn't know. What's worse, my friend looked absolutely gorgeous. My other friends wanted to strangle me for being a huge idiot."

BLIND DATING

Some parents and friends have this habit of setting up blind dates. This can ruin the evening. Of course, the do-gooders will see to it that the prospective date is a certifiably decent person, but there's no telling whether you two will hit it off. I remember a couple at a junior prom who didn't even look at, much less talk to, each other the whole night.

Every once in a while, blind dating can have a happy ending. My friend's mom had someone in mind for her, but she wanted to ask this guy from her parish. When she didn't get a chance to invite him, she agreed to let her mom get her a date. Surprise, surprise—the blind date turned out to be the church cutie. He was also a perfect gentleman. Some people just have all the luck.

CO-ED CRISES

Since I come from an all-girl school, I can only imagine the mad scramble for dates in co-ed schools as prom day draws near. What if you can't have someone who is not from the school as escort, and there is not a 1:1 ratio of boys and girls in your class?

Lara Croft, 19, shares her harrowing experience. "For our prom, dates are mandatory—the guys from our class. Since there were more girls, we had to (get escorts from) the lower levels! I went with a freshman to my junior prom."

For a guy, going out with someone younger may not be such a bad thing. But it's not exactly a thrilling idea, for a girl.

HEMMING AND HAWING

Asking someone to escort you isn't always easy, especially if you like that person very much. But there's a major difference between being too afraid to ask and not doing anything about it as soon as possible.

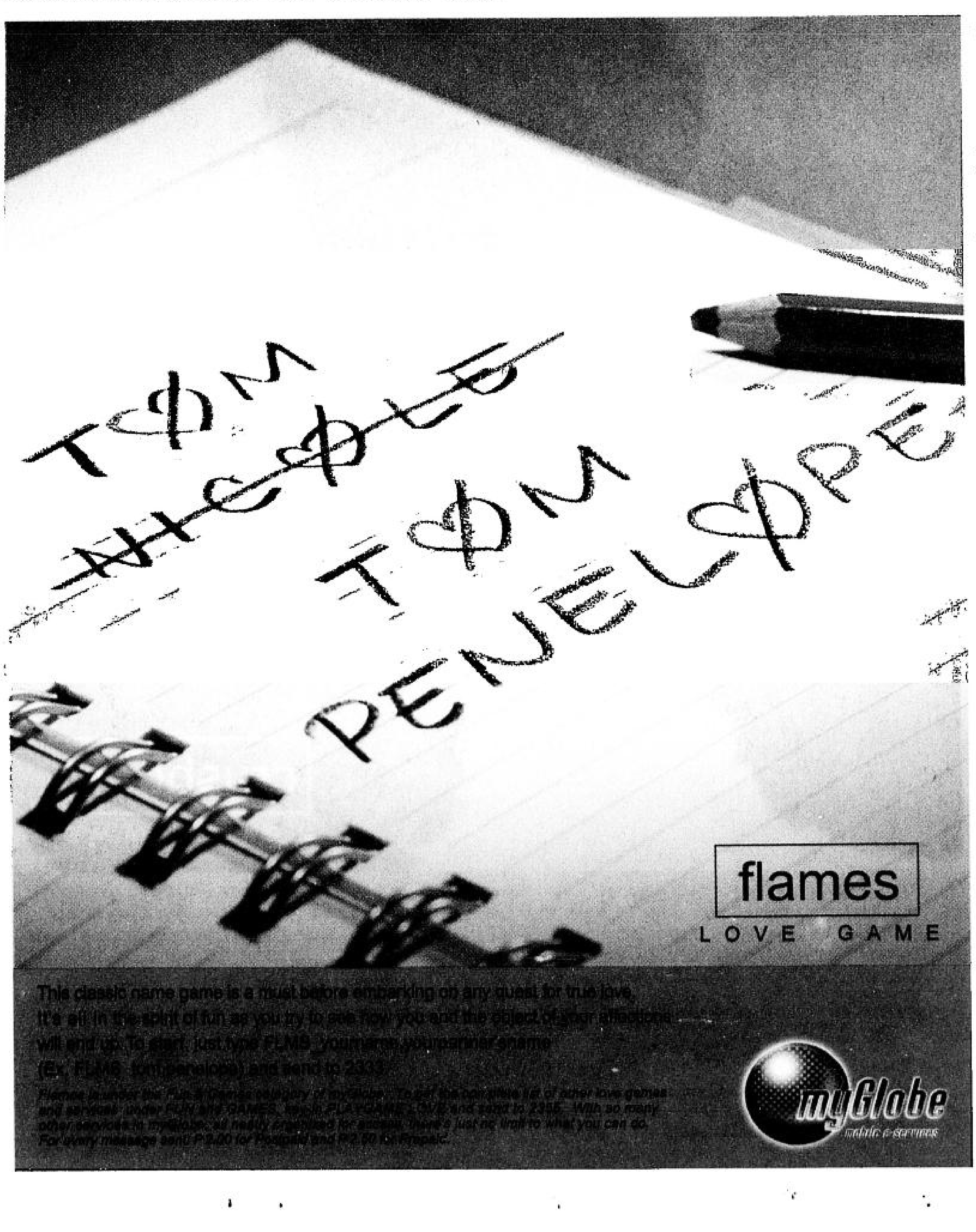
Anthony, 17, has learned the value of not wasting any minute. Although he wanted to ask his long-time crush to be his date, he kept putting it off. When he finally called, she told him that someone had already asked her "a minute before you called."

Angel, 18, ruefully agrees. "I planned to ask my suitor to my graduation ball and to give him my 'yes' that evening. It turned out that his best friend already beat me to it. And guess what? They became a couple soon after." Ouch.

LESSONS LEARNED

Looking for a prom date, although not exactly a stroll in the park, should also not be an onerous task. Don't try to look for someone you want to spend the rest of your life with. Settle for someone you know you'll have fun with. Go with a friend or a group of friends, if that's allowed. As long as you enjoy yourself, never mind what the rest of the world thinks. Of course, you can always have fun without a date, but that's another story.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com



This classic name game is a must before embarking on any quest for true love. It's all in the spirit of fun as you try to see how you and the object of your affections will end up. To start, just type FLMS_yourname_yourpartner'sname (Ex. FLMS_tom/penelope) and send to 2333.

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2bU! wants to play genie and match you with your fantasy date

Who is taking you to the prom?

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Here is where 2bU! steps in.

Close your eyes, imagine yourself all dolled up (or macho-ed up? Sorry, guys) and about to enter the magically transformed hotel ballroom. Watch your classmates' jaws drop as you walk arm in arm with your gorgeous date. Now on to the big question: Who is your dream prom date?

Is it Anna Shier, the new VJ? That British model Luke Mucklin with his boyish charms? Joey Mead? Amanda Griffin? Piolo Pascual? Christian Vasquez?

Tell us whoever is on your mind and why you chose that person. Send this along with details of your upcoming prom, your picture and contact numbers.

We will then wave our magic wand and do our best to make your fantasy prom come true. Lucky 2bU! readers will be spending their prom nights with their dream dates!

Tell us your prom night's desire at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph, fax to 897-4793 or send to the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

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SHADY DEAL. Agot Isidro-Sandejas, Angel Aquino, Daphne Oseña and Kardi Lakhmani

VINCE the "Stallion" Hizon in Cebe sports eyewear

EYE catch of the season Christian Vasquez

EYE SPY. Gelli de Belen in Fornarina Vision Up and Ogie Alcasid in Cebe

ZOOLANDER "walk off" between Trent Frankum and Ches Francisco at Dish

BEACH BALL. Jing Monis look-alike with Avi Siwa in Cebe sports eyewear

Shades of soul

OF LATE, another movement has been riding high in the urban dance jungle. It's a cult of music movers and lovers going into the soul groove, and it's not techno-raver types we're talking about. It's not chill either, for this genre has revelers getting jiggy with the rhythm, gangsta' style, in down-home dance culture.

R&B, hip-hop and rap have been in the scene for the longest time. Internationally, artists like **Doctor Dre**, **Snoop Dog**, **2Pac** and **Notorious B.I.G.** have been sharing their views on life, love and lust through their music. "They talk s--t all the time, but it's all about reality—their lyrics are actually very intense," said **Kate Cortez**, an R&B scene shaker.

On a more commercial note, **Mariah Carey** started the collaboration with hip hop and rap artists. **P Diddy** glossed the scene with his steamy videos. **J. Lo** popularized the "look." And Destiny's Child made it glam. Locally, **Johnny Krush** and his Masta Plann, Sun Valley Crew, the DMC DJ group of **Jesse Gonzales**, not to mention **Francis Magalona**, marked the beginnings of the scene. **Boom Dayupay** and his Seven Shots of Wisdom and Upper Suite, **Chill** and others embody the Pinoy R&B/ hip hop spirit.

On the party side, it took the Big Star group of Toronto DJ **Steve Mills** (now with E! Philippines), **Ed Joaquin** and **Sanj Patel** to spread the R&B/ hip hop gospel. Through DJ Steve's music, the news spread to clubs, from the former Planet Mars to Siete Pecados to the provinces. Now, every other club has an R&B/hip hop night—Wherelse has it on Wednesdays, Pravda and 78 Orange do their own versions on Thursdays. "Everything nowadays is R&B and hip hop," complained an electronic dance scene mover.

Jag jiggy

"It's not a fad—it's a lifestyle," explained Kate of the explosion of the new groove. For a bit of Hip Hop 101, the genre has five components—rapping, MC's, scratching deejays, dance and graffitti—plus street-style. Last Saturday, Jag presented its Spring/Summer 2002 collection (alongside MTV Philippines) to coincide with a giant R&B/ hip-hop shebang with DMC's guest international act **Zion I** (from Frisco), entitled "Bounce!"

"This is great—these people are hungry for the scene," said designer **Ronald Pasion** as we witnessed the grand showdown of 80-plus models in a ghetto fab hodgepodge—in, of all places, the mall (Well, Manila has more of a mall scene than a street scene, anyway)! **Joey Espino** transformed the Cinema 6 of the Glorietta 4 into a 360-degree I-Max theater. Outside, the cinema area had graffitti walls as groups would break into dance (break dance—as in head spin, etc.) in true street fashion.

Some found the venue too hot, others thought there was just too much happening. I liked it a lot—the funky fusion of hip-hoppers with the mall rats passing by, not to mention the models, whose sheer number was a party on its own—to borrow a phrase from a L'Oreal slogan, "All different, each unique."

On show was Jag's new collection called "Thug"—skinny tops, belly bottom-baring tubes, halters, skintight flared jeans and super short cutoffs for gals. For guys, the East Coast crossed over the West Coast with oversized tees and shorts, loose jeans, gangsta polos—perfect for getting jiggy with it, you know what I mean—that hip-spanking, butt-grinding action so common in R&B/ hip hop happenings. Get down, get up.

Sexy, sporty eyes

As early as now, the questions hounding partyphiles' minds is, "Where are you gonna be this summer?" Destinations are being planned, rooms are being booked, bodies are being toned in time for this hot, hot season. Last week at Dish, sporty chic European brands Cebe (pronounced se-beh) and Fornarina had their starry, starry pre-summer launch.

Boob tube celebrities came in full force to this "eye-catching" event upon super agent **Biboy Arboleda**'s invitation. A fashion show with surfer dudes and dudettes raised the temperatures higher. Off stage right after the show, the red carpet row could not wait to get a hold of these hot eyewear brands—an impromptu celebrity-shades fitting session ensued. Welcoming the optical royalties (the Sabaters, the Perezs, the Sarabias, et al) were **Kardi** and **Marivic Lakhmani**, the dandy distributors of these hip brands.

These days when the beach requires you to be on "fight mode," (you'll never know who you'll see, or who'll see you), aside from your sassy swimwear, which shades protect your eyes is as, if not more important. Let the sunshine in.

But before the heat strikes, Yaparazzi was able to hop by **Jaime Daez**'s new baby—Press (the new café inside Page One bookshop), with bright, savvy and modern interiors which Jaime himself designed. The Futuro graphics-designed walls and menu reminded me of the Paul Smith stripes; the ambience was relaxed, edgy and chic, very refreshing in this age of franchised coffee fun.

Lastly, I dropped by Sari-Sari's Venezia gig with the new guard in full blast, romping on the makeshift ramp placed atop the main bar and savoring the open bar cocktails while partyphile-watching. It is in moments like the ones above that you see the growth of the scene, witnessing the burgeoning new set of people out to make their presence felt, diverse movements (from chill to hip hop) being established, different styles evolving—what an exhilarating era to be part of.

Raise the roof!

Tim Yap

SHADOW dance delight

CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD. Sari-Sari Venezia girl of the night Kleng de Guzman

GETTING jiggy with Jag

DMC-All Stars' DJ Kimosave

JUST JAG. Veng Taningco, Wally Chamsay and Roslyn Reyes of Sony

JAGGED EDGE. Vince Dizon of Jag with Amp Live and Zion I

GET down and dirty with the diva. Spotted at Jag party

MARCH into hip hop mode with this

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP, EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO AND ERIC LIONGOREN

NEW GUARD. Mike Huang, Celine Gabriel, Amina Aranaz and Marco Lobregat at Venezia

HIPHOP sistah Chill in the house

BOOTYLICIOUS Bianca Valerio

CIAO BELLA! Anna and Ulisse Tessariol of Marcolin Italy eyewear

SOUL GLAM. Dash of ethnic, bohemian and beaded equals ghetto fabulous

PRESSING matter between Cutie del Mar, Geneva Cruz and Nino Alejandro

DADFEST. Marivic Lakhmani with Richard Gomez and John Estrada at Dish

PRESS RELEASE. Mitch Katigbak with Ricky Delgado

T PARTY. Tina Ocampo and Trish Chua of Press

MEG mates Minelli Bautista, Jessica Cabuay of Mega, Charlene Sawit and Pierra Calasanz at Press in Rockwell

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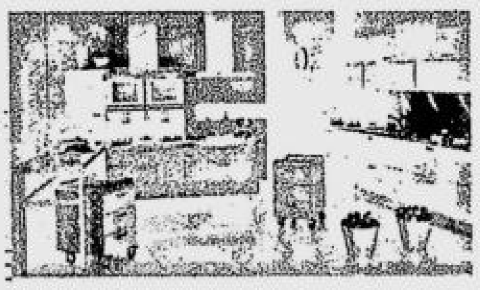
The basic concepts of simplicity, style and substance elevated to the highest standard by the use of the best materials, the most reliable finishes and fully equipped working areas. The result? Kitchens with service and durability standards in line with the best in contemporary designs.



Each piece an artistic blend of color and texture that appeals to the senses. The choice of size and materials is reminiscent of the kitchen atmospheres used by great chefs all over the world. Each line is perfectly proportioned to showcase the great functionality of large-sized elements, with sliding, lift-up or folding doors. Those to whom cooking is a true passion will find the functional and ergonomic facilities an indispensable aid to kitchen organization.

A touch of authenticity with fine craftsmanship on the finest materials.

The addition of wide drawers provide order and organization to the whole system. Storage units for ovens and refrigerators are supported by aluminium. Columns are equipped with pull-out units that double as extra storage space for cleaning products in the sink base units. This added feature also results in a lightening of the load when opening a cupboard door. Worktops are designed with the use of drawers with self-locking wheels that aid in greater mobility during the various stages of meal preparation. The stainless steel worktop is cut to size, with a built-in sink and professional tapware for the best use of space.

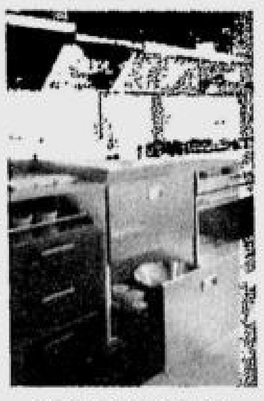
Sense and Sentimentality

The spirit of yesteryear's recaptured. Cafe-style bottle racks, little herborist's drawers, pull-out wickerwork-style baskets, old-world dressers and open fretwork, each element evoking nostalgia.

Art Nouveau

An expression of innovation. Aluminium, glass, wood, grey metal handles and legs, large capacity glass-fronted units an all-metal hood, halogen spot lights. These are the latest interpretations of high-tech kitchens. Contemporary and unstructured, the natural atmosphere evokes great serenity and practicality.

Finding the most comfortable way for the user to carry out a task with suitable equipment is the objective of ergonomics. MOBALPA and SARILA has always been in the forefront of this domain, providing the ideal solution to meet specific needs. The classic range of modules in standard dimensions have new adaptations: units made to your exact dimensions. Finally a solution to the problem of that treasured item that doesn't fit anywhere, the wok or steamer that have never had a home!



Ideal solution to meet specific needs: laminated tops and extractable racks.

MOBALPA and SARILA has designed a number of very clever units that don't waste a single inch of space and keep everything within arm's reach. A new dimension is the inclusion of made-to-measure units that aim to increase the storage capacity available. Mini-stepladders concealed in plinths under units. Cut-to-size shelvings fit corners to precision; units are fitted with pull-out racks and with special storage for bread, bottles, and more. From storage units to French shelves, from glass-fronted units to worktops, nothing has been forgotten. Provisions, table linen, crockery, small appliances -every object finds its place naturally.

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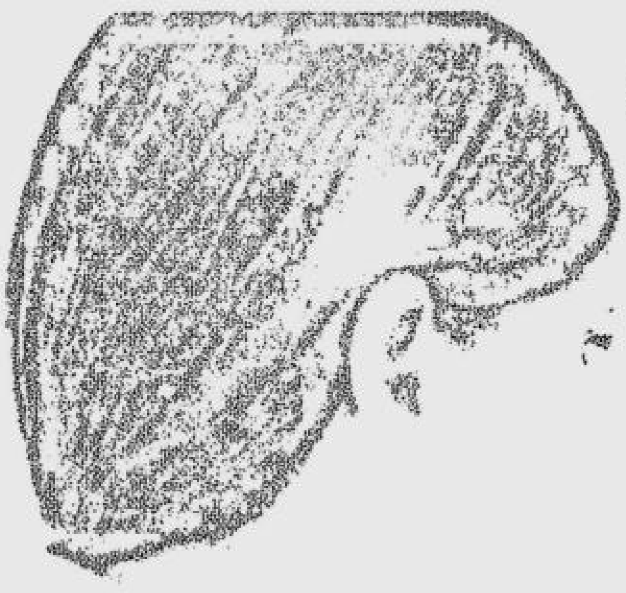

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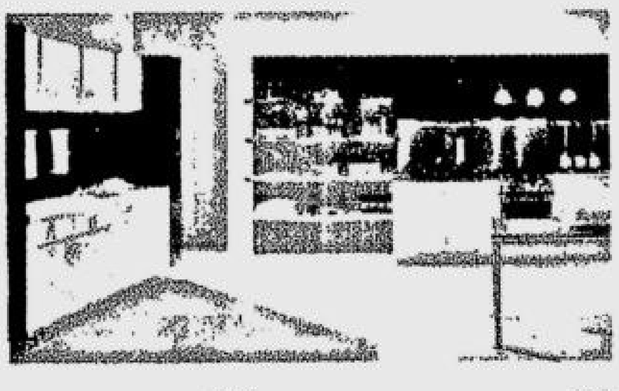

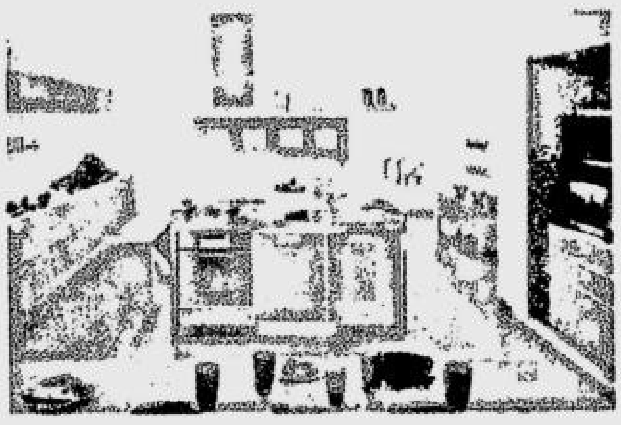

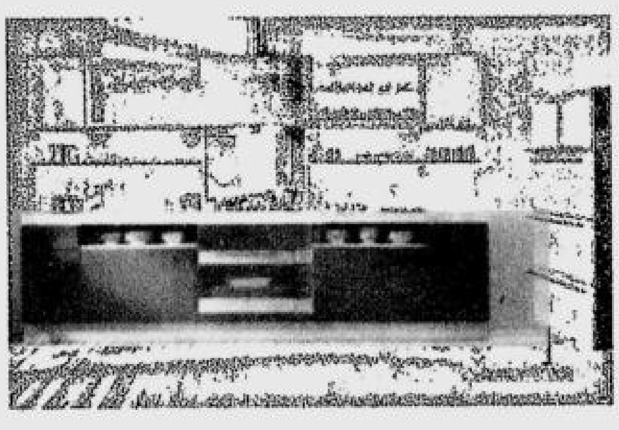

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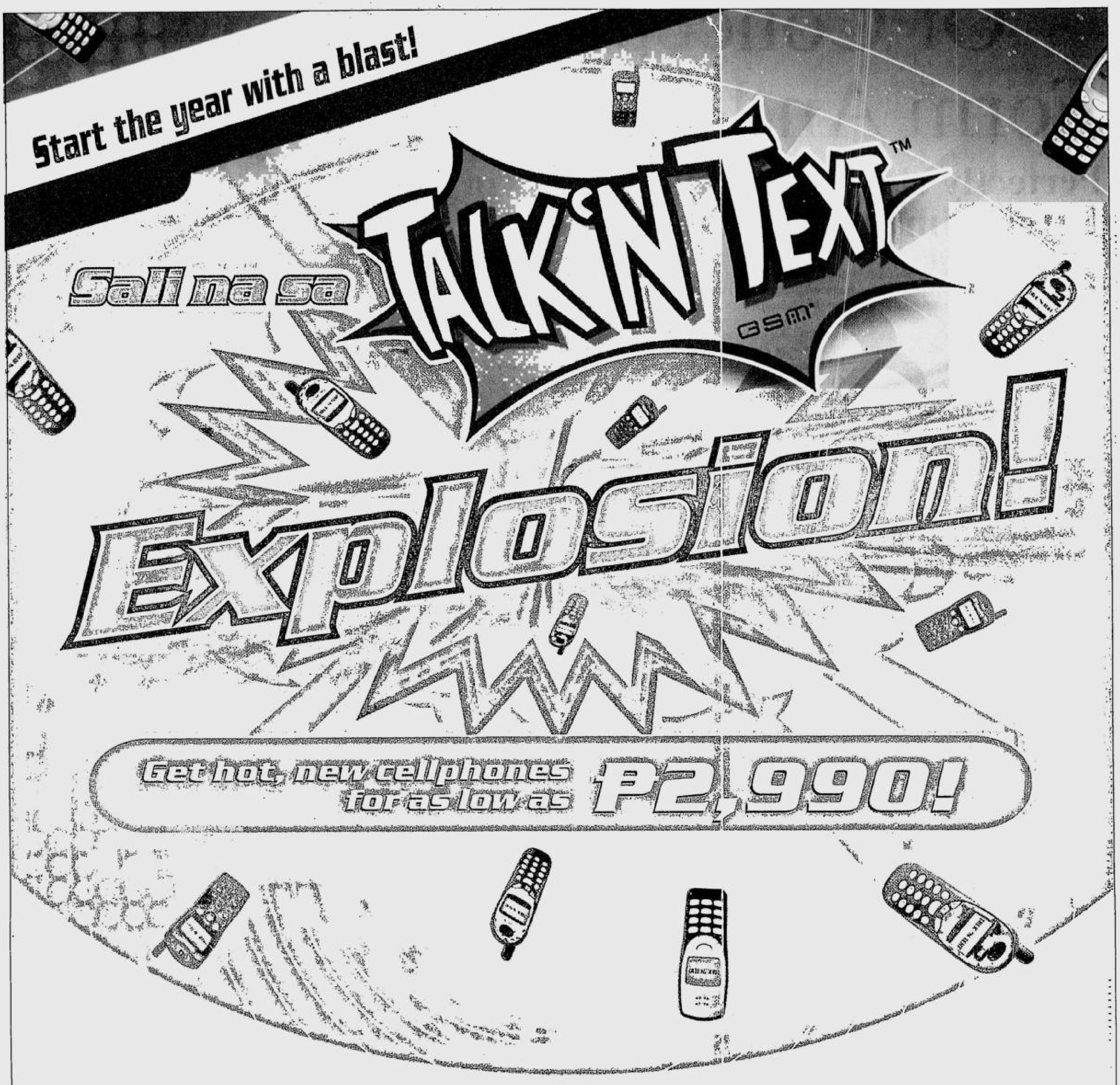
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Goodwill Subd., Parañaque City ***LUZON:*** **Laoag** G/F Jonsons Place Rizal cor. Guerrero Sts., Laoag City **Vigan** 2/F Landmark Bldg., Jose Singson St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur **Baguio** Banco de Oro Bldg., Upper Session Rd. cor., Gov. Pack Road, Baguio City **San Fernando, La Union** CKC Arcade, Quezon Avenue, San Fernando, La Union **Dagupan** G/F Insular Bldg., Arellano St., Dagupan City **Urdaneta** G/F Francis Bldg., San Vicente Vill., North National Highway, Urdaneta, Pangasinan **Tarlac** G/F Lolita Bldg., McArthur Highway, Sto. Cristo, Tarlac, Tarlac **Angeles** G/F Sonny Lao Bldg. 888 Jake Gonzales Blvd.,Angeles City **SM Pampanga** G/F SM City Pampanga **Bataan** Rural Bank of Pilar Bldg., J.P. Rizal St., Balanga, Bataan **Olongapo** G/F Ocampo Bldg., 960 Rizal Ave., East Tadinac, Olongapo City **Malolos** G/F Bonifacio Bldg., Paseo de Congreso, Barasoain, Malolos **Baliuag** 602 G/F De Leon Bldg. Cagayan Valley Road Poblacion, Baliuag, Bulacan **Cabanatuan** Door 2, Sta. 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Rizal St., Lucena City ***VISAYAS:*** **Cebu** 3/F SM Cebu City, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City **Iloilo** Unit 57 Lower Ground Floor, SM City, Benigno Ave., Mandurriao, Iloilo City **Bacolod** Unit 11 G/F JR Bldg., Rizal cor. Lacson Sts., Bacolod City **Tacloban** G/F Oceanic Bldg., Avenida Veteranos cor. Real St., Tacloban ***MINDANAO NORTHMIN:*** **Butuan Tsi Office** G/F Raymund's Bldg., Lopez Jaena Ext., Butuan City • Star Cellular • ARJJ • CellMart **CDO Tsi Office** Stall 28 Rosario Arcade, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City • Graphics • Telepono **Dipolog Tsi Office** Echavez cor. Osmeña Sts., Dipolog City • MetroShoppers •JanVic Enterprises **Iligan Tsi Office** G/F Iligan Day Inn Plaza, Quezon Ave. Ext., Iligan City •Jerry's Shopping Center•GSL Merchandising • IliComm • N'Vers • Cellulite • Po Video **Ozamis Tsi Office** Chua Home Bldg., Don Anselmo Bernard Ave., Ozamis City • Gold Square • Gaisano Mall • Geegee MegaMall • **Pagadian Tsi Office** G/F Edificio del Rey Bldg., Bonifacio cor. Jamisola Sts., Pagadian • CelluPlanet • People's Plaza • Valiant Electronics **Surigao Tsi Office** G/F Guerra Bldg. Rizal cor. Vasquez Sts., Surigao City • Star Cellular • Ben's Enterprises • His Trade •Jerry's Shopping Center **Valencia Tsi Office** 2/F Tamay Lang Bldg., G. Lavinia Ave. cor. M. L. Quezon St., Valencia, Bukidnon ***SOUTHMIN:*** **Cotabato Tsi Office** G/F Landmark Bldg., Don Rufino Alonzo St., Cotabato City •South Seas Commercial • Hop & Shop • Wireless Dimension • Diero Communication **Davao Tsi Office** G/F Dasi Bldg. J. P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City • SMART Landco • Wytelecom • Maconti • Dench Office • Call Sign - Bolton • Cell Connect • RXY **GenSan SMART Telecenter** R. D. Bldg., Santiago Blvd., General Santos City • Matutum Commercial • Cellutel • Tru Voice-KCC Mall • People's Commercial • CSC Warehouse •Jo's Pawnshop **Zamboanga SMART Telecenter** 149 Fidela Bldg., Gov. Alvarez St., Zamboanga City • Sir Pong Commercial • Wise Buy • Mindpro • Dial Tone • **Tawi-Tawi Telecenter** Chewkip Kee Hardware Ridjikist, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi **ADI TELECOMS** Parksquare 1, Rustans Supermarket, Farmers Plaza, SM Fairview, SM Bacoor, Pavilion Mall, Biñan Laguna, Fiesta Mall, Lipa City, SM Pampanga, Jenra Mall Angeles Pampanga, Upper Session Rd. Baguio City, Coyoesan, Baguio City, Naga City, SM Cebu, Crossing Mall Shangrila Shaw Boulevard, South Mall **COMWORKS, INC.** Lipa Branch, Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City, Calamba Branch, Binondo Telecenter, Commonwealth Telecenter, Lipa Telecenter, Tagaytay Telecenter, San Fernando Telecenter, Fiesta Mall Lipa **McGALA PACIFIC PHIL., INC.** MAIN Office, Banawe Q.C., Makati Branch, dela Rosa, Condominium Dela Rosa, Ortigas Branch,Land Mega Plaza, Ortigas Center, Calamba Branch, Calamba Laguna,Cebu Branch, Lahug Cebu City, Pampanga Branch, San Fernando Pampanga, San Pablo Branch, San Pablo City, Pasig Branch, Dr. Sixto Antonio Ave., Sampaloc Branch, España.Sampaloc Manila, Las Pinas Branch, Pamplona 1 Las Piñas City, Zapote Branch, Zapote Las Pinas, Morong Rizal Branch, Marikina City Branch, Manggahan Branch, Pasig City, Mayon Branch, Q.C., P. Camba Branch, Sampaloc Manila, San Mateo Branch, San Mateo Rizal, Taguig Branch, Taguig Metro Manila **BEST COMMUNICATION** Abensons Waltermart-Makati, Rustans Cubao, Shangrila Plaza, Grand Central, UniMart, Landmark, Lee Super Plaza, Dumaguete, Savers Mart Pampanga, Quad, Cainta, Pavilion Mall Biñan, Laguna, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, Starmall Shaw, SM West, SM Cubao,SM Fairview **TOPWIN TELECOM** SM City Iloilo, SM City Cebu, SM Southmall, Robinsons Place Cebu **UNO COMMUNICATIONS, INC.** Bacolod Branch, Bacolod City, Bulacan Branch, Balagtas, Bulacan, Laguna Branch,Calamba Laguna, Cavite Branch, Imus Cavite, Davao Branch, Davao City, Folcris Supermarket, Davao City, Davao Central Warehouse, Davao City, Centerpoint Plaza, Davao City, DC Square, Davao City, Sunscor Grocerama Toril, Davao **SEMICON, INC.** Head Office, Marcos Highway Pasig City, Ortigas Sales Office, Julia Vargas, Ortigas Center Pasig, SM Centerpoint, Sta Mesa, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Fairview, SM Manila, SM Southmall, Festival Supermall, Baguio Sales Office, Naguilian Rd. Baguio City, Cooyeesan Mall, Baguio, Jenra Grand Mall, Angeles City, SM Pampanga, SM Cebu, SM Iloilo, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro, Davao City-Recto, Gaisano Davao City **WINTELECOM, INC.** Main Branch, Malate Manila, Quickcom, Inc., Las Piñas, Quickcom, Inc., Lipa City, Quickcom, Inc. Cebu City

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